

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 854

(Delegate Kaiser)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Inclusion of Child Welfare Data
 and Governing Board**

This bill adds child welfare data, consisting of out-of-home placement data, family preservation services data, and child protective services data, to the data collected, analyzed, and reported on by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center. To that end, the bill adds the Social Services Administration within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the entities required to provide data sets to MLDS and adds the Secretary of Human Services or the Secretary’s designee to the membership of the Governing Board of the MLDS Center. The center must develop a clear and easy-to-understand graphic data dashboard that is published annually on its website with information, disaggregated by county, on the experience of children who were provided with out-of-home placement and how out-of-home placement affected their participation in higher education, as specified. The bill also changes the method by which the center must annually provide dual enrollment information from a report to a graphic data dashboard. By December 15, 2021, and each December 15 thereafter, the center must send a copy of both data dashboards as the dashboards appeared on the date they are sent.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$67,500 in FY 2022 to hire additional personnel, as discussed below. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	67,500	79,500	81,900	84,800	87,800
Net Effect	(\$67,500)	(\$79,500)	(\$81,900)	(\$84,800)	(\$87,800)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Child welfare data” means data relating to a child’s experience with child protective services, family preservation services, and State-sponsored out-of-home services. “Child welfare data” includes out-of-home placement data, family preservation services data, and child protective services data including those data elements specified. “Child welfare data” is included in the definition of “student data.”

DHS and other State agencies must make every effort to comply with the data requirements for MLDS.

In developing its graphic data dashboard on out-of-home placement as required by the bill, the center must include information on:

- the rate of enrollment in institutions of higher education by placement;
- the type of institution of higher education in which out-of-home children are enrolled;
- the type of financial support provided to out-of-home children enrolled in an institution of higher education; and
- the graduation rate of out-of-home children from institutions of higher education.

Current Law: Chapter 190 of 2010 established MLDS to contain individual-level student data and workforce data from all levels of education and the State’s workforce. The legislation also established the MLDS Center within State government to serve as a central repository for the data, to ensure compliance with federal privacy laws, to perform research on the data sets, and to fulfill education reporting requirements and approved public information requests. The MLDS Center is administratively housed within the Maryland State Department of Education.

The purpose of the data system is to facilitate and enable the exchange of student data among agencies and institutions within the State as well as generate timely and accurate information about student achievement that can be used to improve the State’s education system and guide decision makers at all levels. The data system allows users to effectively organize, manage, disaggregate, and analyze individual student data and to examine student progress and outcomes over time, including preparation for postsecondary education and the workforce.

The MLDS Center may only use de-identified data in the analysis, research, and reporting conducted by the center. The center may only use aggregate data in the release of data in reports and in response to data requests.

Student data collected by MLDS includes State and national assessments; course taking and completion; grade point average; remediation; retention; degree, diploma, or credential attainment; enrollment; demographic data; juvenile delinquency records; and elementary and secondary school disciplinary records. Criminal records, children in need of assistance records, and medical and health records are specifically excluded from the types of data that MLDS may collect.

Local school systems, community colleges, public four-year institutions of higher education, and State agencies are required to transfer student-level and transcript-level data as well as workforce data to MLDS.

By December 15 of each year, the center must report the number of students who are dually enrolled, disaggregated by local school system.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$67,548 in fiscal 2022 that accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2021 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of the MLDS Center hiring one full-time database specialist and DHS liaison to transfer data between DHS and MLDS. The duties include analyzing and validating data to be transferred by DHS, conducting any functions necessary to transform the data to meet the business and technical needs of the MLDS database, and developing the required out-of-home placement graphic data dashboard. The position will also analyze and interpret data requests received by the MLDS Center related to DHS data. Finally, the position will serve as a liaison between the two agencies to address matters concerning interagency issues, projects, and data management. The estimate includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$61,967
One-time Start-up Expenses	5,090
Ongoing Operating Expenses	<u>491</u>
Total FY 2022 State Expenditures	\$67,548

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

Providing a liaison position for DHS is consistent with the existing best practices operational model. Alternatively, another contractor from the University of Maryland

School of Social Work could be hired – at an annual cost of almost \$50,000 – but MLDS advises this model may not be the best governance for the MLDS Center.

Changing the method by which the MLDS Center annually provides dual enrollment information from a report to a graphic data dashboard has no fiscal impact; however, it may allow MLDS Center resources to be redirected to other projects.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation, HB 711 of 2020, passed the House and was referred to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; University System of Maryland; Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2021
rh/rhh Third Reader - April 1, 2021
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 1, 2021

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510