

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

First Reader

House Bill 1164

(Delegate Wilson)

Ways and Means

**Public Schools - Expanded American History - Development of Content
Standards and Implementation**

This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop content standards for expanded American history to be included in the State Standards and Frameworks in social studies by December 1, 2023. Each local board of education must update and implement age-appropriate social studies curriculum guides to incorporate the content standards developed by the State board. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each public school must include expanded American history in the social studies curriculum. By October 1, 2024, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and SBE must jointly analyze and report on the content standards, including the content standards for each grade level. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures may increase by an estimated \$30,000 in FY 2024, as explained below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures may increase minimally. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Specifically, the bill requires that the content standards for expanded American history include instruction on the history and contributions of the following groups:

- African Americans;
- American Indians;
- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;
- Hispanic Americans;
- women; and
- other groups as determined by the SBE.

Current Law: With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, SBE establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the regulations, bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by SBE, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction. Policies, rules, and regulations for the graduation of students from Maryland public schools are established by local boards of education and SBE.

In accordance with the Regulatory Review and Evaluation Act, State Standards and Frameworks (*i.e.*, content standards) are reviewed by MSDE and SBE every eight years.

State Expenditures: According to MDSE, the most recent [State Standards and Frameworks in Social Studies](#) include the contributions of African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, women, and other groups that were identified by MSDE and the writing workgroups. The State Frameworks for most social studies grades and courses were published in 2020, and local school systems are currently in the process of updating their curriculums to incorporate the standards. To the extent that the current State Standards and Frameworks in social studies meet the requirements of the bill, the bill can be implemented at no additional cost to the State.

If additional content standards and frameworks are required to be developed, MSDE advises that the development of new standards typically takes three years. To develop them within the five-month period set by the bill, it would cost an estimated \$30,000 in fiscal 2024 for MSDE to hire a contractual position to lead the work. In addition, MSDE staff time may be temporarily redirected from other projects such as summer professional development workshops offered by the Office of Social Studies, currently planned Framework revisions, and assessment development activities for U.S. History and American Government.

Local Expenditures: Assuming the current State Standards and Frameworks meet the requirements of the bill, local school system expenditures and revenues are not affected. If expanded American history standards and frameworks are developed, to the extent that additional materials and professional development are required, local school system expenditures may increase minimally; however, it is assumed that any costs can be absorbed in most, if not all, local school system budgets.

However, a full curriculum update and textbook adoption would increase local expenditures significantly. Prince George’s County Public Schools advises that a full curriculum and textbook update would cost approximately \$6.2 million in fiscal 2024 and approximately \$175,000 in fiscal 2025 and beyond for further professional development.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 462 and HB 47 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Prince George’s County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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