

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1237  
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Miller, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

State Department of Education - Task Force to Study the Maryland Online  
 Special Education System

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study the Maryland Online Special Education System and provides for membership of the task force. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must staff the task force, which must study the system that includes both the Maryland Online Individualized Education Program (MOIIEP; IEP) and the Maryland Online Individualized Family Service Plan (MOIFSP; IFSP). The task force must (1) study the effectiveness, functionality, and usability of the Maryland Online Special Education System; (2) determine the availability of other platforms and how other platforms compare to the current system in terms of effectiveness, functionality, usability, and cost; (3) evaluate the costs of maintaining or upgrading the current system or purchasing or leasing another platform; and (4) make recommendations to maintain and upgrade the system or replace the system with another platform as determined by the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by June 1, 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$87,500 in fiscal 2025 for consulting services. Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	87,500	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$87,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that a child with disabilities be provided a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment from birth through the end of the school year in which the student turns 21 years old, in accordance with IFSP or IEP specific to the individual needs of the child. An IFSP is for children with disabilities from birth up to age 3, and up to age 5 under Maryland's Extended IFSP Option if a parent chooses the option. An IEP is for students with disabilities age 3 through 21. Local school systems are required to make a free appropriate public education available to students with disabilities from age 3 through 21. However, the State, under its supervisory authority required by IDEA, has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that this obligation is met.

An IEP is a written statement for each child with a disability that, among other things, must indicate the present levels of academic achievement and functional performance of a child, measurable academic and functional goals for the child, how the child's progress toward meeting these goals will be measured, and the special education and related services that are to be provided for the child. The parent of a child with a disability is a member of the IEP team that is responsible for developing and reviewing a child's IEP and for revisions to the IEP.

The MOIEP data system houses special education records for participating local school systems and public agencies; provides MSDE with the ability to collect data necessary for operation of the IDEA program in Maryland; and to produce required data submissions required by the U.S. Department of Education. MSDE advises that it convenes a quarterly IEP user workgroup with the focus of obtaining stakeholder feedback on the MOIEP System as well as the IEP document form and format. The MOIFSP System is an online platform technology that facilitates development of IFSPs for early childhood providers, educators, and family members. The system enables users to monitor and review county-level and caseload-level data, aiding in program improvement and instructional decision making.

**State Expenditures:** MSDE advises that it and task force members would require third party expertise to support, organize, convene, and facilitate discussions regarding MOIFSP in particular. Specifically, MSDE does not have expertise in-house to compare MOIFSP with alternative systems. Thus, MSDE anticipates approximately \$87,500 in

fiscal 2025 expenditures to engage a consultant for these purposes. Revenues are not affected.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2024  
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