

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1146
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Task Force to Study Locating Businesses in Libraries in Prince George's County
PG 415-13**

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Locating Businesses in Libraries in Prince George's County. The task force must (1) study business models for cafes, coffeehouses, and other similar businesses located in libraries or bookstores in Maryland and other states and countries; (2) determine whether locating businesses in some libraries in Prince George's County would fill a void in the community, modernize the libraries, provide revenue for the libraries, or otherwise be appropriate and feasible; and (3) if determined to be appropriate and feasible, develop and recommend a plan for locating businesses in some libraries in Prince George's County. The Prince George's County Memorial Library System must provide staff support for the task force. The task force must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Council, the Prince George's County Executive, and the Prince George's County Delegation by December 1, 2014.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2013, and terminates December 31, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members that are State officials are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures may increase by approximately \$25,000 in FY 2014 and 2015 for contractual part-time staff support for the task force.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: The Prince George's County Memorial Library System consists of 19 branches. The library system provides a number of services including, a free online tutoring service available in English and Spanish for grades 4 through 12; Internet and wireless access in all branches; English conversation clubs for speakers of other languages at the Hyattsville, Oxon Hill, and New Carrollton branches; children's and teen outreach specialists; a live online interactive service allowing Maryland residents and students to ask librarians questions, request research guidance, and help navigating the Internet; a computerized communication system for the deaf and hard-of-hearing in all branches; and homebound library services for individuals who are disabled or ill.

The Prince George's County budget for fiscal 2013 includes \$25.5 million for the public library system, a 6.8% increase over the prior fiscal year. Staffing levels at the public library system include 284 full-time employees and 54 part-time employees.

Local Fiscal Effect: Prince George's County advises that the task force will require significant research into nationwide practices regarding the types of businesses that may be located in public libraries, as well as researching the local economy of various communities within the county and the impact that such businesses may have within the community. In addition, due to projected budget cuts that may cause existing library system staff to be reduced to the lower limits of functionality, existing staff may not be available to adequately staff the task force. As a result, the county advises that one additional research assistant may be needed to perform the research and staffing requirements for the task force. The estimated increase in county expenditures total \$49,000 in fiscal 2014 and \$24,500 in fiscal 2015.

However, the Department of Legislative Services advises that, until the exact nature and scope of the task force's activities are known, staffing responsibilities can be handled with a part-time contractual position, at a cost of approximately \$25,000 in fiscal 2014 and 2015.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2013
ncs/hlb Revised - Clarification - March 21, 2013

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

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