

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1119
Appropriations

(Delegate Zucker, *et al.*)

Finance

Department of Budget and Management - Foster Youth Summer Internship Pilot Program

This bill requires the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to develop and implement a Foster Youth Summer Internship Pilot Program. The program's purpose is to provide "foster youth" with training and experience through internships in agencies within the Executive Branch of State government.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2014, and terminates December 31, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DBM can develop and implement the pilot program using existing resources. Because the internships under the pilot program may be unpaid, any potential expenditures for State agencies participating in the pilot program are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: "Foster youth" means an individual who (1) is in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State or (2) is an adult younger than age 26 and was in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State on the individual's eighteenth birthday. To be eligible to participate in an internship, an individual must be a foster youth who is at least age 15.

The Secretary of Budget and Management must (1) develop and implement the pilot program with the assistance of the Secretary of Human Resources and in consultation with the directors of local departments of social services and (2) coordinate with State agencies to establish internships in State agencies that are open to participants in the program. The pilot program must be established in multiple regions of the State. Internships may be paid or unpaid.

A State agency participating in the pilot program may specify requirements for internship applicants and select its interns from among the available applicants.

By October 31, 2015, the Secretary of Budget and Management, in consultation with the Secretary of Human Resources, must report to the Senate Budget and Taxation, the Senate Finance, and the House Appropriations committees on (1) the number of foster youth participating in the pilot program; (2) the location and type of internships in the program; (3) efforts to recruit eligible individuals to participate in the program; and (4) factors that affect program participation.

Background: According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, youth employment is at its lowest level since World War II. Youth who do not have opportunities for early work experience are more likely to endure later unemployment and less likely to achieve higher levels of career attainment. Youth who have been in the foster care system are particularly vulnerable, as they are often leaving the system with little, if any, financial support and without the “safety net” of an adult.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 752 (Senator Robey – Finance).

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Department of Human Resources, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Department of Legislative Services

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