

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1006
Ways and Means

(Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study the Impact of Expanding Credit and Noncredit Courses for
Students With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities - Extension

This bill extends the termination date of the Task Force to Study the Impact of Expanding Credit and Noncredit Courses for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by two years to June 30, 2016. Likewise, the bill extends the date by which the task force must report its findings and recommendations by two years to January 1, 2016.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) can continue to staff the task force and provide expense reimbursements to the public members using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: An individual with a disability who is out of the workforce is exempt from paying tuition for a community college class that has at least 10 regularly enrolled students for continuing education instruction designed to lead to employment, including life skills instruction. These enrollments are counted for purposes of calculating State aid to community colleges. According to the Maryland Coalition of

Inclusive Education, functional life skills are the variety of skills that are frequently demanded in domestic, vocational, and community environments. These life skills, which include soft skills such as communication, cooperation, problem solving, self-initiation, and responsibility, have been shown to be related to job stability and expand an individual's community participation.

In addition, an individual who is out of the workforce due to a disability may obtain a tuition waiver at a community college for up to 6 credits per semester or up to 12 credits if the individual is enrolled in a community college class as part of a degree or certificate program designed to lead to employment that has at least 10 regularly enrolled students.

Public schools in the State must provide free and appropriate education to students with disabilities who are younger than age 21.

Chapter 392 of 2013 established the Task Force to Study the Impact of Expanding Credit and Noncredit Courses for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. A report with findings and recommendations was due January 1, 2014, and the task force is scheduled to terminate June 30, 2014. MHEC is required to staff the task force. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

According to Chapter 392 the task force is charged with:

- studying the impact of credit and expanding the availability of credit and noncredit course offerings for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at public institutions of higher education in the State, including costs, distance-learning options, pathways to meaningful credentials or gainful employment as defined in regulations adopted under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act, barriers, and logistics; and
- making recommendations regarding the expansion of credit and noncredit course offerings for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at public institutions of higher education in the State.

The task force has yet to meet. Members were appointed to the task force in November 2013 and the first meeting was held on March 12, 2014.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2014
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