

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 138
Ways and Means

(Delegate Hixson, *et al.*)

Task Force to Study the Placement of Library Services Within the Education
Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Placement of Library Services within the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The task force must study and make recommendations regarding where library services should be located in the Education Article. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators must staff the task force. By December 1, 2016, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, and terminates June 30, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can provide staff support to the task force using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill specifies the composition of the task force. The recommendations of the task force must ensure that:

- the existing requirement that librarians in public libraries are certified is retained;
- existing requirements for public library associates are retained;

- professional and clerical employees of the public library system retain membership in the Teachers' Retirement System;
- if an employee of the public library system transfers between library systems, the employee is given teacher retirement credit as an employee of the system from which the employee is transferred;
- existing operating and capital budget funding provisions for libraries are retained; and
- Title 23, Subtitles 1 through 5 of the Education Article remain intact.

Current Law: Title 23, Subtitles 1 through 5 of the Education Article establish the Division of Library Development and Services within MSDE, establish State and regional resource centers and the metropolitan cooperative service program, specify State funding formulas for State and regional resource centers and county library systems as well as shared State and local costs for library capital investments, require a State Publications Depository and Distribution Program, and authorize county library systems and indicate their governing structure for each county. A librarian or clerical employee of any library is a member of the Teachers' Retirement System. The Code of Maryland Regulations defines "library associate" and indicates job responsibilities of, and training requirements for, a library associate.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 493 of 2015, a similar bill, was assigned to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee but was subsequently withdrawn prior to receiving a hearing.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, SB 338 (Senator King, *et al.* - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is not identical.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2016
min/rhh

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