

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 869

(Senator Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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Governor's Office of Minority Affairs - Workgroup on Reconciliation and Equity

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This bill requires the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs (GOMA) to convene a workgroup to explore issues of reconciliation processes and racial equity that includes specified stakeholders. By December 1, 2019, GOMA must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the findings and recommendations of the workgroup.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund expenditures to facilitate the activities of the workgroup. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The workgroup must:

- hold hearings at various locations throughout the State and receive testimony from individuals, State and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations;
- evaluate race relations, human rights, social justice, disparities, and institutional bias throughout the State;

- study any current and prospective racial disparities and any institutional bias on individuals and communities, including the effects on health, employment and economic stability, access to safe and affordable housing, income inequality, educational opportunities, and employment and achievement gaps;
- determine the best practices, strategies, courses of action, and legislation that should be introduced to address these findings; and
- make recommendations to (1) improve race relations, promote healing, and foster reconciliation in the State and (2) promote the overall health and success of individuals throughout the State, including improving access to employment opportunities, safe and affordable housing, adequate medical services and treatment, and quality education.

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**State Expenditures:** Although the bill does not designate staff for the workgroup, because GOMA is required to convene the workgroup and submit the required report, for purposes of this fiscal and policy note, it is assumed that GOMA is responsible for any potential minimal costs to ensure that the workgroup meets its required duties, such as any costs associated with holding hearings throughout the State. It is also assumed that other State agencies can participate in the workgroup using existing budgeted resources.

Because the bill establishes a permanent workgroup and not one that is subject to an expedited timeframe by which it must complete its work, it is assumed that the potential for significant fiscal or operational impacts is limited.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Commission on Civil Rights; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Human Resources; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Governor's Office of Minority Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2016  
md/kdm Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 7, 2016

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