

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1600
Ways and Means

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force

This bill establishes the Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force staffed by Baltimore County Public Schools. The task force must submit a preliminary report to the Governor, the members of the Baltimore County Delegation to the General Assembly, and specified local entities by July 1, 2019. The final report must be submitted by December 1, 2020. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018, and terminates December 31, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County Public Schools can staff the task force and provide expense reimbursements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill specifies the membership of the task force and requires it to:

- compile data on the number of incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation in each public school in Baltimore County and the disposition of each incident for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years, to the extent consistent with State and federal law;
- study current disciplinary actions for students found responsible for violations of the Baltimore County Public Schools' bullying policy;

- study the range of possible disciplinary actions for students found responsible for violating the school system’s bullying policy; and
- make other specified recommendations.

Current Law/Background: Chapter 489 of 2008 required the State Board of Education to develop a model policy that prohibits bullying, harassment, and intimidation by March 31, 2009, in consultation with local school systems. Using the State board’s model policy, local boards of education had to establish policies prohibiting bullying, harassment, and intimidation by July 1, 2009, and develop educational materials to prevent bullying in schools.

Maryland’s *Model Policy to Address Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation* was last updated in July 2016 and can be found on the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) [website](#). The Baltimore County Board of Education’s Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Policy is called Rule 5580 and can be found on the Baltimore County Public Schools [website](#). The most recent Code of Student Conduct for the Baltimore County Public Schools can be found in the [2017-2018 student handbook](#).

“Bullying, harassment, or intimidation” is defined by MSDE as intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct, or an intentional electronic communication, that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student’s physical or psychological well-being and is (1) motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attribute, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability or (2) threatening or seriously intimidating and occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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