

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 442  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Queen, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Education – Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Instruction in Public and  
Nonpublic High Schools

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This bill encourages a local board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on organ and tissue donation and registration in public high schools. The bill specifies the purpose and goals of the instruction and also encourages nonpublic high schools to provide the instruction.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill is directed at local school systems.

**Local Effect:** None. *Encouraging* local school systems to provide the instruction does not affect local finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Each local school system must (1) provide in public schools a comprehensive health education program with sufficient frequency and duration to meet the requirements of the State curriculum for all students in prekindergarten through grade 8 and (2) offer in public schools a comprehensive health education program in grades 9 through 12 that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select health education electives. Access to the curriculum must be provided for non-diploma-bound students.

State law requires local school systems to teach a number of specified health topics including: drug addiction and prevention education; awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault; and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that includes hands-only CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator.

State regulations require health instruction in the following topics: mental and emotional health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; personal and consumer health; family life and human sexuality; safety and injury prevention; nutrition and fitness; and disease prevention and control.

## **Background:**

### *Organ Donations*

In 2017, 360 organs were donated in Maryland, of which 144 were from living donors and 216 were from deceased individuals. Despite the advances in organ transplant medicine and increased awareness, the organ donor waiting list has grown over time, both in the United States and Maryland. About 6 in 10 Maryland candidates have been on the waiting list for more than two years. As shown in **Exhibit 1**, a total of 3,663 candidates are currently waiting for an organ donation, about 1,300 more than in 2005.

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### **Exhibit 1** **Current Maryland Candidate Organ Donor Waiting List**

Kidney	2,721
Liver	854
Pancreas	16
Kidney/Pancreas	45
Heart	68
Lung	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,663</b>

Note: Total is less than sum due to candidates who are included in multiple categories. Waiting list as of February 1, 2018.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network

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Nationwide, there were an estimated 21,444 bone marrow transplants in the United States, in 2017, 57% of which were autologous transplants (from within the same individual) and 43%, or 9,284, which were allogenic (from another individual). Since its first successful  
HB 442/ Page 2

use in 1968, bone marrow transplants have been used to treat patients diagnosed with leukemia, aplastic anemia, lymphomas such as Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, immune deficiency disorders, and some solid tumors such as breast and ovarian cancer.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County; Maryland State Department of Education; National Kidney Foundation; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2018  
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