

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 381  
Ways and Means

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force – Alterations

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This bill requires the Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force established by Chapter 496 of 2018, in addition to existing requirements, to make a recommendation regarding a policy for interacting with parents and guardians of students found responsible for repeated violations of the Baltimore County Public Schools’ bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation policy. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Expanding the requirements of the task force as specified has no material effect on Baltimore County Public Schools.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Chapter 496 of 2018 established the Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force. Chapter 496 specified the membership of the task force and required 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.

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 task force terminates December 31, 2020.

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 [2018-2019 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 Comment:** *Baltimore County Public Schools did not respond to a request for information on the fiscal estimate of this bill.*

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2019  
mm/rhh Third Reader - March 25, 2019  
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