

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 476
Ways and Means

(Delegate Cain, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Certification in Secondary Education Content Areas - Expanded
Grade Range

This bill requires, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the State Board of Education to authorize a teacher certificated in specified secondary education content areas to provide instruction in the teacher's content area to students in grades 6 through 12. The State Board of Education must adopt regulations to implement the bill. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of Education can implement the bill and develop the required regulations using existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None. However, local school systems will have increased flexibility in hiring teachers in specified content areas.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill applies to the following certifications: general secondary content areas, social studies, professional and technical education, work-based learning coordinator, other secondary content areas, and specialized professional areas.

Current Law/Background: In Maryland, schools are typically divided into elementary school (kindergarten through grade 5), middle school (grades 6 through 8), and high school (grades 9 through 12).

Teacher certification requirements for specific content areas are set in the regulations. These regulations, some of which have not been updated since 1989, set grade bands for the content areas listed in the bill as grades 7 through 12. In addition, there are middle school content areas that cover grades 4 through 9. Content area certification is in addition to an individual being certified to teach in the State. It specifies what content areas an individual may teach.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is currently in the process of repealing and replacing certification regulations. The proposed regulations remove language concerning grade bands to give MSDE the flexibility to establish grade bands in policy rather than in regulation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2020
mr/rhh Third Reader - March 4, 2020

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