

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 654 (Senator Klausmeier)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Education – Comprehensive Health Education Program – Instruction on Skin Cancer**

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This bill requires, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each local board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on skin cancer as part of the comprehensive health education program. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None. Local school systems are required to provide instruction on skin cancer as part of the health education program. Enhancing current skin cancer instruction may divert resources from existing health curriculum requirements.

**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 nondiploma-bound students.

In order to graduate from a public high school in Maryland, students must complete a half credit of health.

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; substance abuse prevention; family life and human sexuality; safety and violence prevention; healthy eating; and disease prevention and control. The [Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework](#) published July 2020 requires instruction on skin cancer.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 695 of 2020 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2021  
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