

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1158 (Delegate M. Fisher)
Ways and Means

Calvert County - Training on The 1776 Report - Referendum

This bill requires the Calvert County Public School Superintendent, members of the Calvert County Board of Education, and public school teachers and administrators to receive annual training that reflects the findings of The 1776 Report. The Calvert County Commissioners must identify and select the entities to provide the required training. The training requirement is subject to a referendum of the qualified voters of Calvert County at the November 2022 general election and will take effect on January 1, 2023, depending on the outcome of the voter referendum. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Calvert County expenditures increase by a significant amount beginning in FY 2023 to develop a training program for public school staff and officials. Revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

The 1776 Report

In November 2020, Executive Order 13958 created The President's Advisory 1776 Commission. Among other things, the commission's purpose statement noted, "the

best way to preserve the story of America's founding principles is to live it in action by local communities reasserting control of how children receive patriotic education in their schools.” The President appointed 18 commission members who were tasked with providing a report “regarding the core principles of the American founding.” Although Executive Order 13985 subsequently disbanded the 1776 Commission in January 2021, a copy of the commission’s [report](#) remains available from the White House Archives.

Social Studies Curriculum

With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the regulations, bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by the State Board of Education, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction.

According to regulations, each local school system must provide an instructional program in social studies each year for all students prekindergarten through grade 8 and a program that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select social studies electives in grades 9 through 12. These programs must at least meet the content standards in the regulations. In Maryland, among other required topics, regulations require that the social studies instructional program teach students about the peoples of the nation and the world. Specifically, students must inquire about the people of the United States and the world using a historically grounded, multidisciplinary approach in order to recognize multiple narratives and acknowledge the diversity and commonality of the human experience. Every five years, each local superintendent of schools must certify to the State Superintendent of Schools that the instructional programming for prekindergarten through grade 12 meets, at a minimum, all the requirements set forth in the regulations.

[Content standards and frameworks for social studies](#), which were updated for most grades and courses in 2020, include standards for U.S. history and civics education within the Social Studies Curriculum.

Local Expenditures: Calvert County expenditures increase by a significant amount beginning in fiscal 2023 to develop and deliver a training program for public school staff and officials. As of October 2019, Calvert County has a total of 1,443 staff employed in instructional positions (teachers, librarians, guidance counselors *etc.*) and 166 staff employed in administrative positions (superintendent, directors, coordinators, principals, *etc.*). Additionally, the Calvert County Board of Education consists of 6 members, 2 elected from the county at large, 3 from commissioner districts, and 1 nonvoting student member.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): National Archives and Records Administration; Calvert County; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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