

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 439
Ways and Means

(Delegate Guyton)

Institute for Innovation and Implementation - Pregnant, Expecting, and Parenting Students - Data Collection and Report

This bill requires five specified local boards of education (*i.e.*, Charles, Prince George's, Washington, and Wicomico counties and Baltimore City) to collect, track, and submit to the Institute for Innovation and Implementation (institute) in the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UM SSW) specified information about pregnant, expecting, and parenting students by June 1, 2022, and each June 1 thereafter. The institute must (1) analyze the data; (2) document and evaluate the professional development activities of each local school system related to pregnant, expecting, and parenting students; and (3) document and evaluate policy changes related to pregnant, expecting, and parenting students from each local school system. The institute must use this information to develop recommendations for the General Assembly, with an interim report due by June 30, 2023, and a final report due by June 30, 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021, and terminates December 31, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: To the extent data on pregnant, expecting, and parenting students can be collected in compliance with federal privacy laws, general fund expenditures increase by *up to* \$95,000 from FY 2022 through 2025 to analyze the data and produce the required reports, as discussed below. Higher education revenues and expenditures increase correspondingly.

Local Effect: The five specified local school systems can likely collect and transmit the data to the institute using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An “expecting student” includes a student who is the biological father of a fetus carried in the womb of a pregnant student.

Specifically, five specified local school systems must collect, track, and submit to the institute the following data with all personally identifiable information redacted:

- the number of pregnant, expecting, and parenting student who graduate with a high school diploma;
- the number of pregnant, expecting, and parenting students who attain a general educational development diploma (GED);
- the duration of school enrollment for each pregnant, expecting, and parenting student; and
- factors that affect pushout and dropout rates of pregnant, expecting, and parenting students seeking a high school diploma or GED.

State/ Local Fiscal Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education advises that it is unclear if information on pregnant, expecting, and parenting students can be collected in compliance with federal privacy laws including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (known as FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (known as HIPAA).

If the information can be collected in compliance with federal law, then the specified local school systems can likely absorb any additional cost associated with collecting the required data for the institute within existing budgeted resources.

Institute for Innovation and Implementation – University of Maryland School of Social Work

The institute is administratively housed in UM SSW and operates using funding from grants and contracts. The institute advises that to complete the data collection, analyses, and training of school staff to engage in data tracking practices it will need \$95,000 annually for fiscal 2022 through 2025. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that the requirements of the bill can likely be accomplished for less than \$95,000 per year by other entities. However, since the bill specifies that the institute conduct the work, the cost estimate reflects their estimated costs (and their assumed scope of work).

DLS advises that institute costs can be covered from a number of sources including existing higher education funds from the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus or (non-State funded) grants. To the extent that existing or alternative funding sources are not realized, general fund expenditures may increase by *up to* \$95,000 annually from fiscal 2022

through 2025; however, no general fund expenditures are mandated by the bill. If the institute receives less funding than the projected costs, DLS advises that project costs may need to be absorbed by the institute or the scope of work may need to be constrained within the requirements of the bill.

To the extent that general funds are appropriated for the project or other new funding sources are realized, higher education revenues and expenditures increase. This estimate reflects general fund expenditures increasing by up to \$95,000 annually for the duration of the project July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, (fiscal 2022 through 2025) and assumes that the project can be completed in compliance with federal privacy laws.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 470 (Senator Washington) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Washington County; Maryland State Department of Education; University System of Maryland; Maryland Department of Labor; Baltimore City Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510