

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 825  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Boteler, *et al.*)

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Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic Literacy Programs

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Evaluate Existing School Civic Literacy Programs. The task force must (1) evaluate existing school civic literacy programs; (2) determine a strategy for enhancing long-term civic education; and (3) make recommendations for implementing a civic education program. Findings and recommendations are due to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Governor, and the General Assembly by December 1, 2022. MSDE must provide staff for the task force. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022, and terminates July 31, 2023.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Expense reimbursements for task force members and staff support can be handled with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** State regulations require each local school system to provide an instructional program in social studies each year for all students in grades prekindergarten to 8, and offer a social studies program in grades 9 to 12, which enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select social studies electives. The comprehensive instructional program must provide for the diversity of student needs, abilities, and interests at the early, middle, and high school learning years, and must include the content standards set forth in the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies. Under the

civics portion of these standards, students must inquire about the historical development of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence with particular emphasis on civic reasoning in order to become informed, responsible citizens, engage in the political process, and contribute to society.

Chapter 160 of 2007 established the Commission on Civic Literacy, for a period of five years, to promote civic education in schools. The commission developed an [Internet clearinghouse](#) with civic education resources, including lesson plans. The commission released its [final report](#) in November 2012.

In June 2018, the State Superintendent of Schools initiated the Maryland Civic Architecture Symposium. The symposium [report](#) includes an evaluation of the state of civic literacy in Maryland at that time and recommendations regarding further strengthening the civic education program in Maryland.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 723 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 1369 of 2019 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 1072 of 2005 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2022  
fnu2/hlb

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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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