

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 444

(Senator Zucker)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information - United States Census Bureau

This bill authorizes the governing board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to send student information to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: If the governing board of the MDLS Center authorizes the sending of such data, the MLDS Center can do so using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 190 of 2010 established MLDS to contain individual-level student data and workforce data from all levels of education and the State’s workforce. The legislation also established the MLDS Center within State government to serve as a central repository for the data, ensure compliance with federal privacy laws, perform research on the data sets, and fulfill education reporting requirements and approved public information requests. The MLDS Center is administratively housed within the Maryland State Department of Education.

“Student information” with regard to the MLDS Center is defined as student Social Security number, program of study, enrollment, and name of educational institution.

Additional Comments: To participate in the [Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes](#) (PSEO) project, a college or university must provide student transcript level data to the U.S. Census Bureau (as authorized by the bill). The project is developing experimental tabulations developed by researchers. PSEO data provides earnings and employment outcomes for college and university graduates by degree level, degree major, and post-secondary institution. These statistics are generated by matching university transcript data with a national database of jobs, using state-of-the-art confidentiality protection mechanisms to protect the underlying data.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 634 (Delegate Smith) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center; Comptroller's Office; U.S. Census Bureau; Department of Legislative Services

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