

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 610

(Delegate Dumais)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**State Department of Education and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene -  
 Student Surveys - Workgroup**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to establish a workgroup to evaluate and reduce the impact on schools and students of administering and taking various health-related surveys while collecting valid data that meet the legal data collection responsibilities of the departments. The workgroup may consult with various stakeholders and must study the feasibility of administering a single survey or coordinating the administration of multiple health-related surveys. By September 1, 2008, the workgroup must submit a report on the surveys.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007 and terminates June 30, 2009.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$34,400 in FY 2008 and an estimated \$6,600 in FY 2009 to provide staff support for the workgroup and write a final report by September 1, 2008. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	34,400	6,600	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$34,400)	(\$6,600)	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** Local school and health representatives in the workgroup could participate without materially impacting local budgets.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Analysis**

**Current Law:** MSDE must establish procedures for the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Survey (YRBSS). The Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is administered by DHMH with the assistance of MSDE. Every even-numbered year beginning in fiscal 2008, DHMH must submit a report on the Biennial Tobacco Study, which uses data from YTS and a separate survey of adult tobacco use. The Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS) is administered by MSDE. Conducting the survey is not mandatory, but before discontinuing MAS MSDE must submit a report that explains why it is being discontinued.

**Background:** DHMH advises that it and MSDE are in the process of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a workgroup that will address the burden that multiple youth health risk surveys place on public schools. The workgroup will ensure that statutory obligations related to the surveys are met and that the needs of various stakeholders are preserved. The group is expected to include State and local school and health officials, as well as academics who will help to ensure that each survey retains its comparability to past administrations of the survey.

A brief description of each survey is provided in the table below. Currently, YRBSS has a significantly smaller sample size than MAS and YTS because it collects data that are generalized to the State as a whole. MAS and YTS have larger sample sizes because data from the surveys are disaggregated by county, gender, and race/ethnicity. Results from MAS and YTS are then used by local jurisdictions and school systems to develop, implement, and evaluate local programming.

	<b><u>YRBSS</u></b>	<b><u>YTS</u></b>	<b><u>MAS</u></b>
Responsible agency	MSDE	DHMH	MSDE
Survey participants	High school students	Middle and high school students	Students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12
Survey content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tobacco use</li> <li>• alcohol and other drug use</li> <li>• traffic safety</li> <li>• personal safety</li> <li>• suicide</li> <li>• diet, nutrition, and physical activity</li> <li>• protective factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tobacco use</li> <li>• exposure to tobacco marketing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tobacco use</li> <li>• alcohol and other drug use</li> <li>• impaired driving</li> <li>• school safety</li> <li>• peer and parent influence</li> <li>• school safety</li> <li>• protective factors</li> </ul>
Number of students, schools, and school systems participating	2,000 students 30 schools 11 school systems	60,000 students 313 schools 24 school systems	35,000 students 374 schools 24 school systems

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$34,446 in fiscal 2008, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay following the bill's July 1, 2007 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one half-time workgroup director to coordinate workgroup activities, research survey methods in other states, and write a final report by September 2008. A half-time contractual salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses are included in the estimate.

	<b><u>FY 2008</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2009</u></b>
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$22,721	\$4,917
Operating Expenses	<u>11,725</u>	<u>1,650</u>
<b>Total State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$34,446</b>	<b>\$6,567</b>

There would be no fiscal impact after September 2008.

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 9 (Senator Garagiola) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2007  
mll/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - April 2, 2007  
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