

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 886
Ways and Means

(Delegate Ivey, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Maryland After-School and Summer Opportunity Fund Program

This bill transfers the Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund Program from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) and renames the program the Maryland After-School and Summer Opportunity Fund Program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Moving the program from MSDE to GOC will not materially affect State operations or finances, because the program is not currently funded and has not been funded since FY 2004. If funding is provided in the future, it is assumed that GOC will use program funding for any administrative costs. The advisory board can meet the bill’s requirements using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill alters membership requirements for the Advisory Board on After-School Opportunity programs and requires the board to develop a strategy to provide technical assistance through the Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) Network. The bill specifies that technical assistance includes assistance in compliance with the “MOST Programs’ Quality Standards Framework.” The bill also alters the information that must be addressed in the comprehensive plan to include the integration

of any plans developed by local jurisdictions and limits eligibility for grants from the program's fund to nonprofit organizations.

The executive committee of the advisory board must ensure that funds are granted to nonprofit organizations in all geographic areas of the State as equitably as possible. The executive committee is authorized to award a capacity building grant from the fund to assist nonprofit organizations in increasing staff capacity, training, and sustainability of the programs. The executive committee is required to use the MOST quality framework to monitor and assess participating after-school and summer programs. This framework does not supersede applicable child care center licensing regulations.

Within three months of the bill's effective date of October 1, 2012, the executive committee of the advisory board must adopt regulations, which must then be reviewed annually by the executive committee.

Current Law/Background: Chapter 586 of 1999 originally established the Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund Program to provide funding to organizations with after-school programs for children. Chapter 586 also established the advisory board and required the executive committee to consult with the advisory board in reviewing and updating a comprehensive plan of after-school opportunity programs. The plan must address (1) the integration of funding sources; (2) maximization of federal funding opportunities; (3) the promotion of the use of school buildings and local public transportation resources for after-school opportunity programs; (4) the use of local child care resource and referral centers for technical assistance purposes; (5) the promotion of continued expansion of high quality after-school opportunity programs in the State; and (6) the consideration of implementing the full range of options for improving the delivery of after-school opportunity programs. The board issued its first comprehensive plan in 1999.

Due to budget constraints, the program has not been funded since fiscal 2004 and the advisory board is not currently active. The advisory board and the executive committee include representatives from the Governor's Office, MSDE, GOC, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services, and the Department of Human Resources.

The MOST quality framework was developed to assist various out of school programs that serve the State's youth. The framework is designed to serve as a guide for programs by setting standards of program quality. The framework includes seven foundational areas that are considered to be the essential elements of program quality improvement: (1) youth program design and accountability; (2) youth program leadership and sustainability; (3) physical environment and youth program climate; (4) health and safety;

(5) staffing and professional development; (6) youth development, including relationships, programming/activities, and youth participation/engagement; and (7) family/caring adult and community engagement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 524 (Senator King, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Governor's Office for Children, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Department of Legislative Services

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