

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1059
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Valderrama, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

State Department of Education - Asian American History - Accurate Instruction

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to establish a program designed to assist with the accurate teaching of Asian American history. MSDE must identify and use existing materials from specified entities to develop, adapt, or make available a professional development course for educators that aligns with State Board of Education’s existing social studies standards. In the 2026-2027 and the 2027-2028 school years, MSDE must identify age-appropriate material for use in instruction during Asian American history month and disseminate the material to each local board of education. MSDE must consult with experts in Asian American history in carrying out these responsibilities. By December 1, 2028, MSDE must report to the General Assembly on implementation of the program, including how Asian American history has been incorporated into public school instruction. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, and terminates June 30, 2029.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase by \$48,800 in FY 2027, \$52,700 in FY 2028, and \$23,000 in FY 2029 for staff. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	48,800	52,700	23,100	0	0
Net Effect	(\$48,800)	(\$52,700)	(\$23,100)	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Local school systems may choose, but are not required, to use the professional development course or age-appropriate instructional materials disseminated by MSDE. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no specific statutory provision that explicitly mandates a professional development course on Asian American history or dictates its required incorporation into the statewide curriculum.

With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education (SBE) establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the regulations, bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by SBE, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction. Policies, rules, and regulations for the graduation of students from Maryland public schools are established by local boards of education and SBE.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that one full-time permanent staff member is required to administer the program. In addition, MSDE expects to vet instructional materials through the social studies supplementary high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) review process. MSDE further advises that such vetting could not occur until the 2026-2027 school year and would alter its current prioritization process, which is typically based on local school system needs.

However, the Department of Legislative Services advises that, because the bill is in effect for only three years (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029), ongoing permanent staffing is not warranted. Instead, contractual support is sufficient to administer the program and complete required activities.

Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase by \$48,839 in fiscal 2027, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay following the bill's July 1, 2026 effective date. The estimate assumes one half-time contractual education specialist to: (1) identify and use existing materials from specified entities to develop, adapt, or make available professional development aligned with the State Board of Education's social studies standards; (2) identify age-appropriate instructional materials for use during Asian American History Month; (3) disseminate materials to each local board of education; (4) consult with experts in Asian American history; and (5) prepare the required report on program implementation by December 1, 2028.

Contractual Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$40,740
Operating Expenses	<u>8,099</u>
Total FY 2027 MSDE Expenditures	\$48,839

Future year expenditures reflect a half-time salary with annual increases and employee turnover, as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses. This analysis assumes that the contractual position terminates upon submission of the required report on December 1, 2028.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

To the extent that existing materials can be readily identified and meet the bill's requirements without significant adaptation or review, the need for development is reduced, lowering overall costs; conversely, additional costs may be incurred if materials require substantial modification to align with State standards.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1323 of 2025; HB 1363 of 2024 and HB 960 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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