

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 457

(Delegate Feldmark, *et al.*)

Appropriations and Health

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Institutions of Higher Education - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products -
Requirement

This bill requires each institution of higher education that provides on-campus housing to provide, free of charge, menstrual hygiene products in all student health centers by August 1, 2028. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Higher education expenditures increase at public four-year institutions of higher education that provide on-campus housing, likely minimally, beginning in FY 2029, although some costs may be incurred sooner. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Higher education expenditures increase at local community colleges that provide on-campus housing, likely minimally, beginning in FY 2029, although some costs may be incurred sooner. Revenues are not affected. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None, as discussed below.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Menstrual hygiene products” is defined as size-appropriate tampons or sanitary napkins for use in connection with the menstrual cycle.

Current Law: Chapters 705 and 706 of 2021 require each local board of education to ensure that each public school provide, at no charge to the students, menstrual hygiene products via dispensers in the women’s restrooms at the school. A public middle or high school must install menstrual hygiene product dispensers in all women’s restrooms. A

public elementary school must install menstrual hygiene product dispensers in at least one restroom.

Institution of Higher Education

“Institution of higher education” is defined as an institution of postsecondary education that generally limits enrollment to graduates of secondary schools and awards degrees at either the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level. It includes public, private nonprofit, and for-profit institutions.

State/Local Expenditures: Each institution of higher education that provides on-campus housing must provide menstrual hygiene products free of charge in all student health centers, on or before August 1, 2028. Accordingly, beginning in fiscal 2029, higher education expenditures increase at University System of Maryland constituent institutions, Morgan State University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and local community colleges that provide on-campus housing (*i.e.*, Allegany College of Maryland and Garrett College). Compliance may result in some one-time costs (such as dispenser purchase and installation) in addition to the ongoing operating costs related to ensuring an adequate supply of products (restocking, monitoring, and possible maintenance). Even so, the increase in expenditures for most institutions is likely minimal as some campuses already provide menstrual hygiene products free of charge in student health centers, and the requirement is limited to these locations rather than all restrooms, which constrains overall costs. Actual costs depend on existing practices, implementation choices, and usage levels at each institution.

Small Business Effect: The bill applies only to degree-granting institutions of higher education, as defined in § 10-101 of the Education Article, and does not apply to private career schools or other non-degree-granting postsecondary programs.

Additional Comments: The Maryland Independent College and University Association advises that requiring free menstrual hygiene products in all campus health centers creates modest, ongoing operating costs for universities, including supplies, dispensers (if needed), restocking labor, and minimal maintenance. Costs would vary based campus size and usage levels. However, overall costs are likely minimal at most institutions.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2026
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