

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 457 (Delegate Feldmark, *et al.*)  
Appropriations and Health

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

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This bill requires each institution of higher education to provide, free of charge, menstrual hygiene products in *all* restrooms by August 1, 2028. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Public four-year institution and Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) higher education expenditures increase, potentially significantly, by FY 2029, with some costs potentially incurred in earlier years to plan for and phase in the provision of free menstrual hygiene products in all restrooms. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local community college higher education expenditures increase, potentially significantly, by FY 2029, with some costs potentially incurred in earlier years to plan for and phase in the provision of free menstrual hygiene products in all restrooms. Revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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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:** The bill requires each institution of higher education to provide menstrual hygiene products free of charge in *all* restrooms, including male, female, and unisex restrooms, on or before August 1, 2028 (fiscal 2029). Institutions may incur some costs in earlier fiscal years as they plan for and phase in implementation. Compliance results in both one-time and ongoing operating costs related to dispenser purchase and installation, product supplies, restocking, monitoring, and maintenance. Accordingly, higher education expenditures increase at University System of Maryland (USM) constituent institutions, Morgan State University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, BCCC, and local community colleges.

Institutions report that costs vary widely based on campus size, number of restrooms, existing infrastructure, and usage levels. For example, the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus reports operating approximately 545 restrooms and estimates one-time costs of about \$250,700 for dispenser purchase and installation, along with ongoing annual costs of approximately \$215,820 for product supplies and an additional \$12,000 annually for repairs and replacement. The institution advises that no additional staff are required, but that custodial and facilities staff perform daily monitoring and restocking, increasing workload within existing operations.

Other institutions, including smaller USM campuses, report lower annual costs, particularly where menstrual hygiene products are already provided in some locations; however, expenditures increase under a requirement to provide products in all restrooms. 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 restrooms creates modest, ongoing operating costs for universities, including supplies, dispensers (if needed), restocking labor, and minimal maintenance. Costs would vary based on campus size, number of restrooms, and usage levels.

## 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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