

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 627
 Ways and Means

(Delegate Acevero, *et al.*)

Rules

Commission on Historic, Cultural, and Civic Contributions in Education -
 Establishment

This bill establishes the Commission on Historic, Cultural, and Civic Contributions in Education to assist the State’s public schools with (1) providing students an accurate education on the historic roles played by diverse people throughout the State’s and nation’s past and (2) remaining responsive to the evolving needs of students and their families. By August 1, 2027, and every four years thereafter, the commission must make recommendations on school calendars and required hours of instruction. By January 1, 2028, and every four years thereafter, the commission must review specified materials and make recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to update K-12 curriculum and teacher preparation programs to reflect evidence-based, accurate history of diverse groups and their contributions. The commission must submit a report by December 1, 2029, evaluating whether it has met its goals and whether it should continue. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$56,400 in FY 2027 for staffing. Future years reflect ongoing costs and inflation. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	56,400	63,900	67,100	70,200	73,300
Net Effect	(\$56,400)	(\$63,900)	(\$67,100)	(\$70,200)	(\$73,300)

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

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures may increase due to future curriculum or instructional changes adopted in response to the commission’s recommendations; however,

such costs are expected to be aligned with regular curriculum review cycles, and the magnitude and timing cannot be reliably estimated. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes membership of the commission. Other than the student members who serve one-year terms, members serve four-year terms. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must staff the commission; members of the commission may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses as provided in the State budget.

The commission must:

- thoroughly study the course topics, curriculum standards, curriculum resources, curriculum units, and course syllabi currently being used to teach students in the State and how they represent the history and culture of diverse groups including those specified; and
- study current school calendars and required hours of instruction and whether they are designed to reflect the traditions and customs of all members of a community.

If SBE updates any course topics, curriculum standards, curriculum resources, curriculum units, or course syllabi in response to the commission's quadrennial reports, SBE must identify existing courses and materials that may be adapted into professional development courses to assist educators with teaching the updated lessons.

After thoroughly studying school calendars and required hours of instruction by August 1, 2027, and every four years thereafter, the commission must make recommendations on potential adjustments that would better reflect the customs and traditions of all community members to SBE and, the General Assembly.

The commission must complete any other tasks jointly assigned by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

Current Law:

General Requirements for Instruction

With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, SBE establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the
HB 627/ Page 2

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.

SBE and the State Superintendent of Schools must assist each local board of education to establish educational goals and objectives that conform to statewide educational objectives for subject areas, including reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. With the assistance of its local board, each public school must survey current student achievement in reading, language, mathematics, science, social studies, and other areas to assess its needs.

Social Studies Instruction and Topics

According to regulations, each local school system must provide an instructional program in social studies each year for all students, prekindergarten through grade 8, and a program that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select social studies electives in grades 9 through 12. These programs must at least meet the content standards in the regulations. In Maryland, among other required topics, regulations require that the social studies instructional program teach students about the peoples of the nation and the world. Specifically, students must inquire about the people of the United States and the world using a historically grounded, multidisciplinary approach in order to recognize multiple narratives and acknowledge the diversity and commonality of the human experience. Every five years, each local superintendent of schools must certify to the State Superintendent of Schools that the instructional programming for prekindergarten through grade 12 meets, at a minimum, all the requirements set forth in the regulations.

Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation, including Chapter 771 of 2019; Chapters 36 and 55 of 2021; and Chapter 33 of 2022 established new programs and updated education funding formulas to, among other provisions, provide additional support for schools serving high concentrations of students living in poverty, including community schools and wraparound services, and increased support for students learning English and students with disabilities.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that the agency requires a full-time permanent education program specialist to staff the commission as well as \$10,000 in annual travel costs. However, the Department of Legislative Services advises that the work of the commission likely can be accomplished by a half-time permanent position.

Thus, general fund expenditures increase by \$56,403 in fiscal 2027 for MSDE to hire a half-time educational program specialist to staff the commission, facilitate the reports, and oversee changes to standards. The estimate assumes a 90-day start-up delay following the bill’s July 1, 2026 effective date (during which commission members are appointed). It includes a half-time salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$48,304
Operating Expenses	<u>8,099</u>
Total FY 2027 State Expenditures	\$56,403

As the commission is a permanent entity with ongoing review and recommendation duties, future year expenditures reflect a half-time salary with an annual increase and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

Many of the [State Standards and Frameworks in Social Studies](#) have been revised to address the contributions of specified minority groups. Thus, to the extent that the commission’s recommendations align with existing revisions to the State Standards and Frameworks, the bill’s requirements may be met with existing resources. However, any alignment cannot be determined until the commission is appointed and makes recommendations.

Any expense reimbursements for commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Expenditures: The bill does not impose direct requirements on local school systems. However, if SBE adopts new or revised standards or guidance based on the commission’s recommendations, local school systems may incur costs to update curriculum materials, instructional resources, or professional development. Any such costs are expected to be highly variable and are likely incurred as part of existing curriculum review and update cycles; therefore, the magnitude and timing of potential local expenditures cannot be reliably estimated, and in some cases may already be factored into local school system budgets.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 875 of 2025; HB 50 of 2024; and HB 890 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2026
js/mcr Third Reader - April 13, 2026
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 13, 2026

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510