
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: HB 1448
DATE: 4/3/2001
CC: FILE

HB 1448

HB 1448 is the Junior ROTC bill. It requires the State Superintendent, subject to the availability of funding, to employ or contract with the Military Department for a statewide coordinator for Junior ROTC programs. HB 1448 establishes the duties of the coordinator. HB 1448 also requires the State Board of Education to study issues related to Junior ROTC funding and the licensing of Junior ROTC instructors and to submit a report of its finding to the House and Senate Education committees before the 2002 session.

37 legislators signed on as co-authors of the bill. John Mayo and Cecil Brown both touted Junior ROTC as a good program that results in decreased teen pregnancy and decreased drop-out rates.

MDE did not receive any funding in its appropriation for the Junior ROTC statewide coordinator. The bill as sent to you is much shorter than it was originally introduced. The Senate took out the House's scholarship for students that enroll in Junior ROTC for four years in high school and then enroll in a collegiate ROTC program. The Senate also deleted the House's language that provided supply funds for Junior ROTC instructors. Conferees were determined to pass something this year, although HB 1448 isn't exactly what either chamber wanted. Senate conferees agreed to the House's provision that the statewide coordinator could solicit and accept financial support for Junior ROTC programs from private sector donors.

HB 1448 is effective July 1, 2001.