

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1286
Ways and Means

(Delegates James and Heller)

Education - School Census and Census of Children with Disabilities

This bill requires local boards of education to conduct a school census of the children under the age of 21 in its county during school years ending in an even number. Information collected about children with disabilities must be reported by disabling condition and level of service. The school census information must be reported to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) currently collects this data on an annual basis.

Local Effect: None. Local school systems currently report this information to MSDE on an annual basis.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Local boards of education are authorized in statute to conduct a school census of children under the age of 18 in its county, including children with disabilities. Information on children with disabilities must be submitted to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. A parent or legal guardian of a child who withholds information needed for the school census or makes any false statement about the child is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$20.

Local Fiscal Effect: MSDE requires each local school system to report student enrollment data and other information on public school students under the age of 21 each year. Information is also collected on students with disabilities who attend nonpublic schools that receive State and local funding.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Baltimore County Public Schools, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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lsc/jr

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