

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 1040 (Delegate Frank, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Social Workers - Certified Professional Personnel

This bill requires the Maryland State Board of Education (SBE) and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) to develop regulations to certify school social workers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2005. SBE special fund revenues could increase by \$2,500 in FY 2006 to reflect the implementation of a five-year SBE licensing fee for certificated school social workers. Future year revenues reflect an estimated five new school social workers paying the certification fee annually and the five-year renewal cycle. State expenditures would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
SF Revenue	\$0	\$2,500	\$100	\$100	\$100
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$0	\$2,500	\$100	\$100	\$100

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person must be licensed by the State Board of Social Work Examiners before the person may practice social work in the State. A person must be licensed as a certified social worker-clinical before the person may practice clinical social work in the

State. These requirements do not apply to an individual employed by an agency of the federal government while performing the duties of that job, unless the person chooses to apply for a license.

SBE and PSTEB must develop rules and regulations for certifying teachers and other professional personnel. A maximum \$10 fee may be imposed for issuing or renewing a teacher certificate.

Background: Nine local school systems in Maryland employ social workers to assist public school students. As of October 2003, there were 249 social workers employed by local school systems with over two-thirds of them working in Baltimore City. **Exhibit 1** shows the number of school social workers by local school system for calendar 2001 through 2003. In addition, there are 11,712 social workers licensed by the Board of Social Work Examiners.

SBE and PSTEB certification would allow a licensed social worker to: (1) perform the same tests conducted in private practice in a school; (2) advance professionally within SBE; and (3) “be qualified” by a statewide standard for eligibility in the “No Child Left Behind” program.

Exhibit 1
School Social Workers Employed by
Local Boards of Education

<u>County</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Allegany	1	1	2
Anne Arundel	11	11	11
Baltimore City	168	174	168
Baltimore	27	34	36
Frederick	14	15	9
Kent	2	2	0
Montgomery	11	13	16
Prince George’s	2	2	4
Talbot	11	8	1
Wicomico	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	249	262	249

State Fiscal Effect: The bill authorizes SBE and PSTEB to adopt regulations to certify school social workers. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) indicates that regulations and the certification process would be in place for the 2005-2006 school year. MSDE currently imposes a \$10 fee to certify teachers for a five-year certificate. Assuming MSDE imposes the current \$10 certification fee on all school social workers, special fund revenues could increase by \$2,490 in fiscal 2006. It is assumed that the number of certificated school social workers will remain relatively constant and that only five new individuals would seek certification annually. MSDE and PSTEB can develop the regulations and certification process with existing resources.

School social workers must still have a State Board of Social Work Examiners license.

Additional Comments: A departmental bill (HB 156) has been introduced in the 2004 session that would increase, from \$10 to \$75, the maximum fee that MSDE can impose for the issuance and renewal of certificates for teachers and other professional personnel. The fees charged must equal the cost of issuing and renewing the certifications. Assuming this legislation is enacted and MSDE imposes the maximum \$75 certification fee, special fund revenues could total \$18,675 in fiscal 2006, instead of \$2,490.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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