

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 837  
Ways and Means

(Delegate King, *et al.*)

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**Classroom Placement - Multiple Birth Children - Parental Discretion**

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This bill prohibits a local board of education from adopting a classroom placement policy that automatically separates or places together multiple birth children. The parent or guardian of multiple birth children may request that they be placed in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. A school must honor the requested placement unless the principal, in consultation with the children's teachers, determines that the requested placement is disruptive to the school. A school may recommend the appropriate classroom placement for multiple birth children or provide professional educational advice to assist a parent or guardian regarding placement for multiple birth children.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is directed at public schools.

**Local Effect:** Public schools could accommodate parents' requests for placements of multiple birth children without impacting local school budgets.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** There are no statewide laws governing classroom placements for multiple birth children.

**Background:** Multiple births occur in approximately 1% of all births in the United States. The rate of multiple births has increased in recent years due at least in part to more frequent use of fertility treatments.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 2008  
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