

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1052 (Delegate Ivey)
Ways and Means

Education - Public Charter Schools - Hiring of Certificated and Paraprofessional Employees

This bill requires that mutual consent between a local board of education and a charter school operator govern the hiring of all qualified and certificated individuals and paraprofessional employees who are working in a public charter school. A presently existing obligation or contract right may not be impaired by the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is directed at local school systems and charter school operators.

Local Effect: Local school system administrative expenditures may increase minimally.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Professional staff members of a public charter school must hold the appropriate Maryland certification. Public charter school employees remain public school employees of the local board of education in which the charter school is located. If a collective bargaining agreement is already in existence in the county where a public charter school is located, the employee organization and the public charter school may mutually agree to negotiate amendments to the existing agreement to address the needs of the particular public charter school.

Local boards of education must develop and submit a public charter school policy to the State Board of Education. This policy must include guidelines and procedures regarding evaluation of public charter schools; revocation of a charter; reporting requirements; and financial, programmatic, or compliance audits of public charter schools.

Background: The general purpose of the Maryland Public Charter School Program is to establish an alternative means within the existing public school system in order to provide innovative learning opportunities and creative educational approaches to improve the education of students.

Since 1991, 40 states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws that authorize public charter schools. Maryland passed its public charter school law in 2003. There are 52 charter schools in the State: 38 in Baltimore City; 7 in Prince George's County; 2 each in Anne Arundel and Frederick counties; and 1 each in Baltimore, Montgomery, and St. Mary's counties. Four additional charter schools are expected to begin operations by August 2014.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Carroll and Harford counties, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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