

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 857

(Senators Kasemeyer and Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Physical Education and Athletic Programs for Students With Disabilities -  
Funding**

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This bill requires the State Board of Education and each local board of education to ensure that adapted, allied, or unified physical education and athletic programs are adequately funded by the local board of education.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2014.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local boards of education can meet the bill's requirement with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapters 464 and 465 of 2008 required the State Board of Education and local boards of education to ensure that students with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in mainstream physical education and athletic programs in public schools. The State board and each local board of education must also ensure that adapted, allied, or unified physical education and athletic programs are available. Adapted programs are programs developed for a student with a disability. Allied sports and unified programs are specifically designed to combine groups of students with and without disabilities.

In addition, local boards of education are required to develop policies and procedures to promote and protect the inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream physical education and athletic programs, and the State board must adopt a model policy to assist local boards with the implementation of these requirements. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must monitor local boards' compliance and provide technical assistance to local boards. COMAR 13A.06.04 defines the requirements for a Corollary Athletic Program in the local school systems, which is a program that is specifically designed to combine groups of students with and without disabilities together in physical activity.

Each local board of education must report annually on its plans to engage students with disabilities in physical education and athletics programs and on the participation of students with disabilities in these programs. MSDE must compile the reports and submit an annual report by August 1 to the General Assembly on local boards' compliance with State requirements.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 922 (Delegate Luedtke, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2014  
ncs/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 25, 2014

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Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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