

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1398 (Delegate Afzali)  
Ways and Means

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Frederick County Board of Education - Discipline Regulations

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This bill authorizes the Frederick County Board of Education to disregard all or a portion of the State Board of Education guidelines that define a State code of discipline for all public schools and include standards of conduct and consequences for violations of the standards. Also, regulations adopted by the Frederick County Board of Education are not subject to these State guidelines.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill authorizes but does not require the Frederick County Board of Education to alter school discipline guidelines. Depending upon decisions made by the board, the Frederick County public school system may avoid certain personnel costs associated with State guidelines for student discipline.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Each local board of education must establish special programs for public school students who exhibit disruptive classroom behavior, in order to promote positive behavior and reduce disruption. For cause, a public school principal may suspend a student for up to 10 days. A suspension for longer than 10 days or an expulsion must be made by the local superintendent of schools at the request of a principal, and a student

may appeal the suspension or expulsion to the local board of education. With the exception of in-school suspensions, a student may not be suspended or expelled from school solely for attendance-related offenses.

**Background:** In December 2013, the State Board of Education published for comment new suspension regulations for prekindergarten through grade 12. The regulations became effective February 17, 2014. The regulations require, among other things, each local school system to designate a liaison between teachers and various students on out-of-school suspension or expulsion, specify certain responsibilities of the liaison, and also require that certain students on expulsion or suspension receive daily classwork and assignments from each teacher.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2014  
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Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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