

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 201 (Senator King, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Fire Drill Requirements - State Fire Prevention Code

This bill instructs the State Superintendent to require each county superintendent to hold a fire drill in each public school in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code instead of at least 10 times per school year and at least once every 60 days.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains only to local school systems.

Local Effect: None. There are no costs associated with conducting a fire drill, so reducing the number of fire drills that each public school must hold each year from 10 to either 8 or 5 has no fiscal effect.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Superintendent must require that each county superintendent hold a fire drill in each public school at least 10 times each school year and at least once every 60 days.

The State Fire Prevention Commission within the Department of State Police must adopt comprehensive regulations as a State Fire Prevention Code. The commission adopted by reference, subject to some exceptions noted in the regulations, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code (2015 Edition), the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2015 Edition), and some requirements of the International Building Code as the State Fire Prevention Code.

With regards to educational facilities, the code requires those with automatic sprinkler systems to hold five fire drills per year, with at least two occurring in the first four months of the school year. Educational facilities that are not fully protected by automatic sprinkler systems must hold eight fire drills annually, with at least three scheduled in the first four months of the school year. In both cases, one fire drill must be conducted in the first 30 days of operation, except for educational buildings that are open on a year-round basis. All occupants in the building must participate in a fire drill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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