

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 193  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Long)

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**Baltimore County - Public Schools - Active Assailant Event Training and Drills**

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This bill requires the Baltimore County Superintendent of Schools to (1) conduct active assailant event training for school personnel annually and (2) require each public school in the county to hold active assailant event drills three times during each school year. The training and drills must comply with guidelines established by the Maryland State Police. Each Baltimore County public school must keep records of the drills they hold, and share those records with the Baltimore County Superintendent and the Baltimore County Board of Education.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill affects only Baltimore County.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore County Public School expenditures increase by \$7,100 in FY 2018 to train a cadre of 12 instructors to lead the mandated drills. There may be ongoing costs in future years to the extent that new instructors must be trained due to turnover. It is assumed that teachers in each public school can be advised of the requirements of each drill with existing budgeted resources. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires each local school system, in consultation with other health and safety officials in the local community, to develop an emergency plan for all public school grounds that (1) deals with the contingencies of man-made, technological, and natural hazards and (2) aligns with the Maryland State Department of Education Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools. It defines a school emergency plan as a plan for each public school grounds within a local school system that addresses mitigation, prevention, preparation, response, and recovery to (1) violent or traumatic events on school grounds during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities or (2) events in the community that affect normal school functioning.

COMAR also requires each local school system to develop and implement an annual schedule of drills for each school grounds in the system. In addition to fire drills, schools must conduct the following drills annually: (1) evacuation; (2) shelter in place; (3) reverse evacuation; (4) lock down; (5) drop, cover, and hold; and (6) severe weather.

Chapter 372 of 2013 established the Maryland Center for School Safety as an independent unit of State Government to be based at Bowie State University (it is currently located at the Maryland State Police's Coordination and Analysis Center). Chapter 372 included a mandated annual appropriation of \$500,000 for the center and identified 20 functions and duties of the center that provide a comprehensive, coordinated approach to school safety.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

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