

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 846 (Delegate Grammer)
Ways and Means

Public Schools - Reporting of Assaults, Crimes of Violence, and Felonies (Report Act of 2020)

This bill requires a school administration (*i.e.*, a principal of a public school or a designee of the principal) to file specified reports if an assault, a crime of violence, or a felony occurs at a public school and is reported to the school administration. Specifically, the school administration must (1) file a report with the police department of the county (or municipal corporation) in which the school is located; (2) file an administrative incident report with the local board of education that includes the police report number; and (3) provide the police report number and a copy of the administrative incident report to the victim of the assault, crime of violence, or felony (or, if the victim is a student, to the parent of the student). The bill also establishes reporting requirements for local boards of education and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can handle the reporting requirement with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local school systems can likely collect and submit the required data with existing budgeted resources, but doing so may detract from other school safety-related functions in some school systems. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Each local board of education must (1) adopt regulations that specify the requirements of an administrative incident report; (2) adopt a policy that specifies the penalty for a violation of the bill's requirements (up to and including termination of employment); and (3) within 30 days after the final day of the school year, report the total number of reports filed to MSDE. Within 60 days after the final day of the school year, MSDE must report to the General Assembly the total number of reports filed pursuant to the bill.

Current Law/Background: State regulations require a school superintendent, upon receipt of information from a law enforcement agency of an arrest of a student for a reportable offense, to promptly provide a school principal of the school in which the student is enrolled with arrest information, including the charges. (A reportable offense includes a crime of violence.) In addition, local school systems are required to annually report school arrests and referrals to law enforcement agencies or the Department of Juvenile Services.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1175 of 2019 had a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Harford, Montgomery, and Wicomico counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Center for School Safety; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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