

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1349

(Delegate Henson, *et al.*)

Ways and Means and Appropriations

Budget and Taxation and Education, Health,
 and Environmental Affairs

Education Support Professionals - Bonus and Report

This bill requires the Governor to include an appropriation in the fiscal 2024 budget that is equal to the number of noncertificated education support professionals multiplied by \$500 to provide a \$500 bonus to each noncertificated education support professional in fiscal 2024. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must collect data from each local board of education on the number of noncertificated education support professionals in each county and report the data as specified. “Noncertificated education support professionals” means noncertificated public school employees designated as part of a bargaining unit under State law. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$7.2 million in FY 2024, as discussed below. No effect on revenues. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2024.**

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	7,192,500	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$7,192,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local school system revenues and expenditures increase by an estimated \$7.2 million under the assumption that State funding for the bonuses is provided as a grant to local school systems to pay eligible noncertificated personnel.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual must have a certificate issued by the State Superintendent to be employed in the State as a county superintendent, assistant superintendent, supervisor, principal, or teacher. “Noncertificated employee” is not explicitly defined in statute but presumably applies to any public school employee not listed above.

Data is not currently available on the number of noncertificated education support professionals who are members of bargaining units in each local school system. For purposes of this analysis, noncertificated education support professional includes teacher aides, library aides, and other aides, as reported by MSDE. It does not include noncertificated school personnel that do not have an educational function, such as bus drivers and food service workers, nor does it include noninstructional professional staff such as counselors and social workers.

The fiscal 2023 operating budget (specifically within Supplemental Budget No. 5) includes \$8.0 million in general funds within the Dedicated Purpose Account to be transferred by budget amendment to provide bonuses to “noncertified” education support professionals.

State Expenditures: As of October 2021, the most recent statewide data reported by MSDE, there are a total of 12,373 teacher aides, 312 library aides, and 1,700 other aides employed in public schools in the State, or a total of 14,385 affected employees.

Therefore, general fund expenditures increase by \$7.2 million in fiscal 2024, which is equal to the estimated number of noncertificated education support professionals multiplied by \$500. To the extent that the number of noncertificated education support personnel is substantially different from the estimate in this analysis, general fund expenditures may be substantially more or less. To be a mandate, the bill must include a clearly prescribed amount or an objective basis from which a level of funding can easily be computed. The bill requires MSDE to collect information on the number of eligible personnel from local boards. Thus, this estimate assumes that the number of noncertificated education support personnel eligible for the bonus is known when the budget for fiscal 2024 is developed. The bill makes this a one-time appropriation, so there are no out-year expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 831 (Senators Zucker and King) - Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

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