

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 994 (Delegate Conaway)  
Ways and Means and Judiciary

---

**Baltimore City - Public Middle Schools - Course on Consequences of a Felony  
Murder Conviction**

---

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to develop a course on the consequences of a conviction for felony murder for students in grades 6 through 8 in Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS). Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the board must implement the course, which must be taught at least once to students in grades 6 through 8. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. This bill pertains only to BCPS.

**Local Effect:** BCPS expenditures increase in FY 2026 to develop a curriculum for a course on the collateral consequences of a conviction for felony murder. Beginning in FY 2027 (2026-2027 school year), BCPS expenditures increase to implement the course. Revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** “Consequences of a conviction for felony murder” is defined as the legal penalties that take away an individual’s freedom, rights, and access to programs or services after a conviction for murder in the first degree under Title 2 of the Criminal Law Article.

**Current Law:** With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education (SBE) establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for

public schools. Subject to State law and the regulations, bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by SBE, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction. Policies, rules, and regulations for the graduation of students from Maryland public schools are established by local boards of education and SBE.

The Maryland State Department of Education advises that at the middle school level the [State Standards and Frameworks in Social Studies](#) do not include the content required by the bill; however, opportunities to learn about criminal law and the criminal justice system are directly addressed in [High School United States History](#) and [American Government](#).

**Local Expenditures:** The bill requires BCPS to develop and implement a course on the consequences of a conviction for felony murder, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. This course must be taught at least once to students in grades 6 through 8. It is assumed that, under the direction of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, BCPS develops the course and trains teachers in fiscal 2026 and 2027 to ensure implementation by the 2026-2027 school year. As a result, BCPS expenditures for curriculum development are expected to increase during both fiscal 2026 and 2027. The likely costs cannot be reliably estimated but may be meaningful.

**Additional Comments:** In December 2021, the Department of Legislative Services produced a report entitled [Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction](#).

---

### Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2025  
km/mcr

---

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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