

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 221 (Allegany County Delegation)
Ways and Means

County Boards of Education - Emergency Procurements

This bill expands the exemptions to competitive bidding on procurement contracts by local boards of education to cover all emergency repairs. Under current law, only emergency repairs required during the regular school year are exempted.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate impact on local expenditures. Local revenues would not be affected.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Under current law, only emergency repairs required during the regular school year are exempted from competitive bidding requirements. This proposed bill would exempt all emergency repairs. The fiscal impact from expanding competitive bidding exemptions would depend upon the number of emergencies and the size of repairs in each county. To the extent that noncompetitive bids lead to higher repair costs, administrative cost savings could be reduced.

For illustrative purposes, Allegany County Schools advises that expanding current exemptions to include all emergency repairs could significantly reduce county expenditures when certain emergencies occur. For example, before the start of the 1995-96 school year, emergency repairs were needed at a school due to a break in a water line. Since the school year had not started, the school system had to go through the normal competitive bidding process, which delayed maintenance and increased expenditures.

Information Source(s): Allegany County Schools, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Fiscal Services

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