

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE****Revised**

House Bill 772 (Delegate Cadden, et al.)

Ways and Means

Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Education - Suspension**

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This amended bill requires a student who is suspended from a public elementary or middle school to remain on the school premises while the school is in session, unless the principal determines that the student poses a threat to other students and staff. The suspended student must be placed in a supervised instructional setting and must complete all current school assignments.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by up to \$853,000 beginning in FY 1999. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** Local government expenditures could increase by a maximum of \$6.3 million in FY 1997. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** Assuming school systems cannot reassign existing staff, this bill will require 204 additional teachers at a cost of \$5.3 million. The State pays the employer's contribution for teacher retirement, which in fiscal 1997 totals 16.09% of salaries. Because the State bases the retirement contribution on teacher salaries in the second prior year, retirement costs will not increase until fiscal 1999. For illustrative purposes, assuming the contribution rate remains the same, general fund expenditures could increase by \$853,000 beginning in fiscal 1999. This estimate is based on the following:

- \$5.3 million in additional salaries (this does not include local fringe benefits);
- 16.09% employer contribution rate; and

- impact beginning in fiscal 1999.

**Local Expenditures:** During the 1994-95 school year there were 85,276 suspensions involving 51,082 students (some students had multiple suspensions). This bill requires public schools to develop in-school suspension programs for elementary and middle school students suspended from school. This could require at least one additional teacher at each of the State's 204 middle schools at a cost of \$6.3 million, assuming school systems could not reassign existing staff. This is based on the fiscal 1996 median beginning teacher salary in each county and fringe benefits at 19% of salaries. However, if local school systems hired long-term substitutes, local expenditures would only increase by \$1.8 million, which is based on a \$50 a day payment for each substitute.

**Additional Comments:** The following is a breakdown of the reasons students were suspended from school during the 1994-95 school year (this includes both primary and secondary school students).

Reason for Suspension	Number
Health Related	104
Attendance Related	5,184
Dangerous Substance	4,808
Behavioral Related	
Dangerous Weapon	2,283
Physical Attack on Staff	1,602
Physical Attack on Student	21,300
Sexual Activity	473
Vandalism	974
Other Behavioral Problems	48,548
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,276</b>

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Prince George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

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