

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 904 (St. Mary's County Delegation)  
Ways and Means

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**Education - St. Mary's County Board of Education - Employment Contracts**

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This bill prohibits the St. Mary's County Board of Education from entering into an employment contract that extends beyond June 30, 1997 for several administrative positions in the county school system. These positions include the County Superintendent, a deputy or assistant superintendent, or any other employee of the county schools with a rank equivalent to a deputy or assistant superintendent. This legislation is contingent on the enactment of HB 1032 (St. Mary's County-County Board of Education-Election of Members).

This bill takes effect July 1, 1996.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** St. Mary's County expenditures could increase between \$9,500 and \$26,000 each time an employment agency is hired to search for a new school superintendent. Revenues would not be affected.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** Under current law, local school superintendents work under four-year contracts. The St. Mary's County School Superintendent's current contract expires on June 30, 1996. This bill would prohibit the local board from renewing this contract or entering into a new contract with another individual for more than one year. The school system also has one Associate Superintendent for Instruction and one Assistant Superintendent for Administration; however, these individuals serve at the discretion of the Superintendent and would not be affected by this legislation. This bill does not apply to any contract entered into by an elected school board; however, St. Mary's County at this time does not have an elected

school board. The school board is currently appointed by the Governor. This bill is contingent on the enactment of HB 1032, which provides for an elected school board.

**Local Expenditures:** St. Mary's County advises that conducting a search for a new superintendent would cost between \$9,500 and \$26,000. These expenditures include costs for communication, travel, and hiring an agency to conduct the search process.

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**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 1996

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Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:

Reviewed by: John Rixey

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710