

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 815 (Delegate C. Mitchell, et al.)
Ways and Means

Education - Criteria for Evaluation of Public School Accountability

This bill establishes specified criteria to evaluate public school accountability.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing accountability criteria of the Maryland School Performance Plan (MSPP). The only difference in the standards is the reporting of the crime rate in the geographic attendance area. Accordingly, the bill would not affect State finances.

Local Effect: Local government expenditures could increase by a significant amount as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on local governments.**

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Local boards of education currently are required to report certain information to the State as part of the MSPP. The only additional reporting requirement involves disclosing the crime rate in the geographic attendance area. This additional requirement will involve modifying existing computer programs at law enforcement agencies. Currently, crime rate information is not collected for a geographic school attendance area.

This additional reporting requirement could result in significant computer programming costs and training at local law enforcement agencies. Further, it could be difficult to determine the actual school attendance area. For example, due to Prince George's County's current desegregation order and magnet school program, students are bused to schools throughout the county. Accordingly, this bill could result in a significant increase in local government expenditures.

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

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