

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 736 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

Education - Prince George's County - School Uniforms
PG 401-96

This amended bill authorizes the Prince George's County Board of Education to implement a school uniform policy for all students.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1996.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures could increase by \$2.5 million to \$5 million annually beginning in FY 1997, if the county authorizes the use of school uniforms and decides to reimburse low income parents for the uniforms' costs. Revenues would not be affected.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Approximately 111,200 students are enrolled in the Prince George's County School System, of whom about 37% (41,100) qualify for free or reduced price meals. School uniforms cost between \$20 to \$40, depending upon the type required. It is estimated that each child would need at least three uniforms. Assuming the school system chooses to reimburse parents of low income children (defined as those receiving free or reduced price meals) for the costs of the uniforms, county expenditures could increase between \$2.5 million and \$5 million.

In Portsmouth, Virginia, many schools have requested students to wear school uniforms, with the cost being fully absorbed by the student's parents. At Emily Spong Elementary School, the school has arranged for certain "discount" department stores to sell the required uniforms. In addition, private donations have been requested to assist low income families. If Prince George's County decides to follow this approach, the cost to implement a school uniform policy would decrease significantly and could probably be absorbed within existing resources.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services; Prince George's County; Portsmouth, Virginia School System

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