

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 190 (Delegate Gordon, *et al.*)
Ways and Means

Education - School Buses - Charging of Fees Prohibited

This bill prohibits local governments from charging a fee for transporting public school students to and from school.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Currently, no local government charges a fee to transport students to and from school.

Small Business Effect: None. Small businesses would not be directly affected.

Fiscal Analysis

Additional Comments: No local government currently charges a fee to transport students to and from public schools. It is not clear whether charging students a fee violates the State's constitutional guarantee of a free and appropriate public education. However, if such fees are constitutional, this bill would prevent increased local government revenues from school bus fees in the future if local boards of education want to implement such fees. **Exhibit 1** shows the costs and number of students receiving school transportation services in fiscal 1995.

Information Source(s): Department of Fiscal Services, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Maryland State Department of Education

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 1997

nrd

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710