

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1076 (Delegate Marriott, *et al.*)  
Ways and Means

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**Baltimore City - Public Schools - Educational Assistants and  
Paraprofessional Employees - Licensing**

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This bill requires the State Board of Education to license educational assistants and paraprofessional employees who work in the Baltimore City Public School System. The State Board is required to develop and administer, in collaboration with the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, a program of instruction for individuals to be licensed as educational assistants or paraprofessional employees by July 1, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$56,600 in FY 1998. Future year expenditures reflect a reduction in the number of individuals applying for a license. Special fund revenues could increase by \$20,000 in FY 1998 and an indeterminate amount in future years.

(in dollars)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
SF Revenues	\$20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GF Expenditures	56,600	35,600	36,400	37,100	37,800
Net Effect	(\$36,600)	(\$35,600)	(\$36,400)	(\$37,100)	(\$37,800)

Note: ( ) - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate increase in Baltimore City expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None. Small businesses are not directly affected.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Revenues:** Assuming the Professional Standards and Teaching Education Board imposes a certification fee for licensing educational assistants and paraprofessionals, special fund revenues could increase by \$20,000 in fiscal 1998. This is based on a one-time \$10 certification fee and all 2,000 individuals employed as educational assistants and paraprofessionals becoming licensed. Future year revenues would increase by a minimum amount depending upon the number of individuals seeking to become licensed as an educational assistant and paraprofessional.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$56,639 in fiscal 1998, which reflects a 90-day start-up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one contractual Staff Specialist and one contractual Office Secretary to examine and license educational assistants and paraprofessional employees in Baltimore City and to develop an instructional program. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- 2,000 educational assistants and paraprofessional employees in the Baltimore City Public School System;
- one-full time contractual Staff Specialist and one full-time contractual Office Secretary required in the first year to handle the licensing of all educational assistants and paraprofessional employees and one part-time Staff Specialist and one part-time Office Secretary required in future years to handle new applicants; and
- MSDE developing an instructional program consisting of a minimum of six courses for initial licensing.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$42,216
Operating Expenses	<u>14,423</u>
<b>Total FY 1998 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$56,639</b>

Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries for two part-time positions with 2% annual increases; and (2) 2% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) advises that one full-time Staff Specialist, one part-time Staff Specialist, and one full-time Office Secretary at an annualized

cost of \$90,000 would be required to handle the bill's requirements. The Department of Fiscal Services contends that the number of individuals seeking to be licensed should be significantly less in future years.

**Local Effect:** The State's community colleges could provide instructional programs for individuals applying for a license pursuant to this bill. The extent of any additional local expenditures would depend upon the type of certification required for paraprofessionals and educational assistants and whether existing courses could be put together to create a certification program. MSDE advises that a minimum of six courses at a cost of \$100 per course would be needed for initial licensing. If Baltimore City provides tuition reimbursements, local expenditures could increase by \$1.2 million in the first year.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Fiscal Services, Baltimore City, Maryland Higher Education Commission

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 1997  
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