

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 466 (Senator Teitelbaum)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Education - School Buses - Charging of Fees Prohibited**

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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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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

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