

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1458 (Delegate Guns)  
Environmental Matters

---

**Mandatory Integrated Pest Management Program**

---

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a mandatory integrated pest management program in all public school districts. The program is to include (1) implementation, oversight, and review of the mandatory Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs; (2) prioritization of pesticides to be applied on public school property; and (3) strategies to manage pest problems without the reliance on certain pesticides.

The bill requires each local board of education to establish an approved IPM program by June 1, 1999. Local school districts must designate an integrated pest management coordinator and employ or contract with a certified applicator. The bill requires that a pest control applicator must obtain written approval from a certified applicator prior to the application of certain pesticides on school property. Local boards are required to maintain a list of students and staff members who request prior notification of a pesticide application. The bill establishes certain notification procedures prior to the application of a pesticide at public schools.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill's requirement could be handled with the Department of Agriculture's existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate expenditure increase. No effect on revenues. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful impact on small businesses as discussed below.

---

**Fiscal Analysis**

## **Local Expenditures:**

### *IPM Program Costs*

Local school districts are required to develop an IPM program by June 1, 1999. All local school districts currently have some type of IPM program in place; however, the magnitude of the programs vary considerably. For example, Anne Arundel County has one of the most extensive IPM programs in place, costing approximately \$139,000 system wide, or \$1,250 per school. However, other school systems have implemented only a limited IPM program. To replicate the Anne Arundel County model statewide would cost approximately \$1.6 million annually. However, a large portion of these costs would be offset by current expenditures for existing pest control programs.

Based on a survey conducted by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, local expenditures could increase by around \$700 per school in Frederick County to \$4,000 per school in Cecil and Worcester counties. As stated earlier, the cost to implement this bill varies considerably across the State and would depend upon what types of pest control services are currently in place.

### *Prior Notification Requirement*

In addition, local school districts may face additional costs for pest control services depending upon whether pesticide application occurs outside of the pre-scheduled applications. For example, in many cases, private contractors perform the inspection and pesticide application on the same day. However, due to the 48-hour prior notification requirement, these businesses may have to make a follow-up visit to apply the pesticide. It is assumed that in these cases, the pest control firms will increase their fees. The fiscal impact to local school systems is not known at this time.

Local school district expenditures for pesticide notification could increase considerably depending upon whether the notification is done through mailings or through sending information home with the child. Assuming all parents request prior notification for pesticide applications, local expenditures for each pesticide application could increase by \$24,150 (805,000 students x \$0.03 printing costs) if the notifications are sent home with the students or \$281,750 (805,000 students x \$0.35 postage and printing costs) if the notifications are mailed. Further, the prior notification list could be developed during the annual school registration process with the information being filed with the students' health records. Accordingly, there should be no additional costs associated with developing the lists.

**Small Business Effect:** There are approximately 600 pest control businesses in operation in Maryland. Approximately one-half of the State's school systems rely on private contractors to provide pest control services. In many cases, private contractors perform the inspection and pesticide application on the same day. However, due to the 48-hour prior notification

requirement, these businesses may have to make a follow-up visit to apply the pesticide. It is assumed that in these cases, the pest control firm will increase their fees. However, to the extent that IPM programs reduce the need for pesticide applications, business revenues for pest control firms could decrease.

---

**Information Source(s):** Department of Agriculture, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 1997

mld

---

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710