

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 519 (Delegate Dembrow, *et al.*)
Ways and Means

Truancy - Investigation and Reporting Requirements

This bill requires a local school superintendent, a pupil personnel supervisor, or the local school superintendent's designee, upon receipt of a report that a student has been habitually truant without lawful excuse, to investigate the cause of the student's truancy from school. The local school system may provide the truant student with family counseling and other types of intervention services, and may notify the Department of Juvenile Justice that the student has been habitually truant, without lawful excuse. Local boards of education must submit an annual report to the Maryland State Department of Education on the number of students identified as being habitually truant.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate impact on State expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None. Any additional workload resulting from truancy investigations and additional reporting requirements could be handled with existing resources.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The impact on State expenditures would depend on the number of cases referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by local school superintendents as a result of this bill, which cannot be reliably estimated at this time. In fiscal 1995, the latest year for which data are available, DJJ received 335 complaints from school systems

involving student truancy. Of these cases, 146 children were placed under formal or informal supervision at a cost of \$135,500 or \$928 per child. Approximately 97,000 students were

absent from school for more than 20 days during the 1995-96 school year.

Information Source(s): Department of Juvenile Justice, Maryland State Department of Education

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