

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 61 (Delegate Fulton. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

---

**Education - Public Schools - Promotion of Students**

---

This bill requires local boards of education to establish written policies for the promotion of public school students to the next grade level based on the: (1) student's achievement; (2) student's age; (3) uniqueness of the student; (4) student's needs; (5) student's developmental level; and (6) student's ability level.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. State funding would not be directly affected.

**Local Effect:** None. Most school systems already base student promotions on many of the factors established in the bill (academic performance and demonstrated competency).

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** At the secondary grade level, student promotion is based on the number of credits earned by each individual student, which may vary by jurisdiction. Currently, all students need a minimum of 21 credits to graduate. At the elementary and middle school level, student promotion is based on the judgement of teachers and administrators. Most school systems claim that they base student promotions at both the primary and secondary level on student academic performance.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services, Maryland Association of

Boards of Education

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - January 26, 1998

lc

---

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Reviewed by: John Rixev

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixev, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710