

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 971 (Harford County Delegation)  
Ways and Means

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**Harford County - School Board Hearing Examiner - Bar Membership  
Optional for Certain Proceedings**

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This bill enables the Harford County Board of Education to appoint a nonattorney as a hearing examiner for school board disciplinary proceedings involving students who are suspended or expelled from school. The bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal reduction in Harford County expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** The Harford County Board of Education conducts between 20 and 25 disciplinary hearings each year. These disciplinary hearings are currently heard by the school board and not by a hearing examiner. However, if the local school board decides to use a hearing examiner in these disciplinary cases, the cost to conduct the hearings would likely be lower if the hearing examiner was a nonattorney. Under current law, the hearing examiner has to be an attorney admitted to practice before the Maryland Court of Appeals. Only the Anne Arundel County Board of Education is authorized to appoint a nonattorney as a hearing examiner.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services, Harford County Public Schools, Harford County Government

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 1998  
tlw Revised - House Third Reader - March 31, 1998

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