

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 625 (Senators Haines and Ferguson) (Carroll County Senators)  
Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Education - Carroll County - Hearing Officers**

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This bill authorizes the Carroll County Board of Education to appoint a hearing examiner to conduct appeal hearings involving student disciplinary and employees matters and other school related decisions. Under current law, the county school board hears these cases. The Carroll County Board of Education may not appoint a hearing examiner who is a partner or an employee of the law firm representing the county board. This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Enabling the Carroll County Board of Education to appoint a hearing examiner and placing eligibility restrictions on who can become a hearing examiner would not affect Carroll County expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** The Carroll County Board of Education conducts approximately five appeal hearings each year. For each hearing, the school system retains two attorneys, one, the board's official attorney, who represents school officials at the hearing and another who provides legal advice to the county board. By having these appeals heard by a hearing examiner instead of the county board, the school system would still have to retain two attorneys, one to serve as the hearing examiner and another (the board's official attorney) to represent school officials at the hearing. Accordingly, Carroll County school expenditures would remain the same. However, this bill would reduce the amount of time that school

board members spend on appealing hearings.

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**Information Source:** Carroll County Public Schools

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 1998  
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Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Reviewed by: John Rixev

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixev, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710