

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 286 (Delegate Stubb. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**Public Schools - Integrated Pest Management**

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This bill requires each county board of education to develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in each primary and secondary public school in the county.

The IPM program must be approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Local boards are required to develop a list of pesticide-sensitive students and staff members. Furthermore, local school officials must notify each parent, guardian, and staff member on the pesticide notification list at least 24 hours before any pesticide application. When a pesticide application occurs at an elementary school, the school system must notify each student's parents or guardian and each staff member, regardless of whether they are on the pesticide notification list. The bill provides an exception for emergency applications. Local boards must provide an opportunity, at least once a year, for individuals to comment on the county's pest management program.

The mandatory provisions of the bill apply to each local board beginning in the 1999-2000 school year. This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The MDA has already developed a voluntary IPM school program and currently provides technical assistance to local school systems.

**Local Effect:** Indeterminate increase in local school expenditures. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**Local Effect:** All 24 local boards of education have some type of IPM program in place. Depending upon whether the IPM program approved by the MDA is more stringent than the local's IPM program, school expenditures may increase. However, it is assumed that most local school IPM programs would meet MDA requirements. Based on a 1996 study, all local school systems utilize sanitation as their first choice for pest control. Twenty-three use structural repairs (screen and plumbing repairs, caulking) as their second choice for pest control. Non-pesticide methods such as trapping and vacuuming is used as the third choice, with pesticide applications being used as a last resort. Furthermore, local school systems are moving towards a greater use of bait and gel pesticides and away from aerosols and liquid formulation.

In addition, local school expenditures would increase due to the notification requirement. The actual cost would depend upon the number of pesticide-sensitive students, the frequency of pesticide application in each school, and how the notices are transmitted to the students' parents and guardians.

It is assumed that the pesticide 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 list.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Agriculture, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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