

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 538 (Allegany County Delegation)

Judiciary

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Education - Students - Arrest for Reportable Offense

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This bill requires law enforcement agencies to notify the local superintendent of schools when a student is arrested for offenses involving controlled dangerous substances or alcoholic beverages. The State's Attorney is required to notify the local superintendent of the disposition of the case. Under current law, such notifications are only required for offenses involving crimes of violence or weapons violations.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. Requiring State law enforcement agencies to notify local school officials of a student's arrest could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** Requiring that local school officials be notified of students committing offenses involving controlled dangerous substances or alcoholic beverages should not result in any additional local expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Fiscal Analysis

**Local Effect:** Under current law, local school superintendents must be notified by law enforcement agencies when students are arrested for offenses involving crimes of violence or weapons violations and by the State's attorney when the cases are adjudicated by the courts. As illustrated in **Exhibit 1**, juveniles committed over 12,000 violent criminal acts in 1995. In fiscal 1997, juveniles committed approximately 8,600 drug related offenses and 3,100 alcoholic beverage offenses. Expanding the definition of reportable offenses to include controlled dangerous substance and alcoholic beverage violations would double the number of cases being reported to school officials.

**Exhibit 1**

### **Violent Crime Committed by Juveniles**

<b>Criminal Offense</b>	<b>1995 Incidents</b>
Murder/Manslaughter	129
Forcible Rape	137
Sexual Assault	410
Robbery	1,350
Felonious Assault	2,012
Other Assaults	6,998
Weapons Violations	1,248
<b>Total Offenses*</b>	<b>12,284</b>

\*May not include all types of violent criminal offenses.

Source: 1995 Uniform Crime Report, Maryland State Police

As illustrated in **Exhibit 2**, Baltimore City comprises 45% of the drug related juvenile offenses, followed by Baltimore County with 11% and Prince George's County with 9%. Worcester County had the most alcoholic beverage violations (17%), followed by Montgomery County (14%). Baltimore City, which has the highest concentration of juvenile drug and alcoholic related offenses (34%), advises that they already provide drug-related information to local school officials. Given the distribution of the remaining offenses across the State, it is anticipated that law enforcement agencies and State's Attorney offices could handle the reporting requirement within existing resources.

**Exhibit 2**  
**Juvenile Narcotic and Alcoholic Beverage Cases - Fiscal 1997**

<b>County</b>	<b>Narcotics Possession</b>	<b>Narcotics Distribution</b>	<b>Alcoholic Beverages</b>	<b>Total</b>
Allegany	54	13	162	229
Anne Arundel	456	74	159	689
Baltimore City	1,297	2,619	62	3,978
Baltimore	744	181	217	1,142
Calvert	92	11	129	232
Caroline	25	2	23	50
Carroll	75	19	119	213
Cecil	99	14	129	242
Charles	119	15	113	247
Dorchester	32	12	21	65
Frederick	166	48	146	360
Garrett	14	1	24	39
Harford	172	39	22	233
Howard	143	18	331	492
Kent	14	0	21	35
Montgomery	527	70	434	1,031
Prince George's	443	298	77	818
Queen Anne's	53	3	103	159
St. Mary's	52	10	113	175
Somerset	16	8	4	28
Talbot	44	6	56	106
Washington	85	36	120	241
Wicomico	82	32	25	139
Worcester	183	26	504	713
Total	5,012	3,566	3,114	11,692

Source: Department of Juvenile Justice Information System on Youth Services

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services, Maryland State Police, Department of Juvenile Justice, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Kent County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Washington County, State's Attorney Office, Maryland State Department of Education, Baltimore City

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 1998

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