

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1238 (Delegate Muse. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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**Education - Public Schools - School Uniforms**

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This bill requires a public school to implement the use of school uniforms beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, if a majority of parents at the school favor the mandatory use of school uniforms. The recognized parent-teacher association at each primary and secondary school must conduct the parent survey during the 1998-1999 school year. The local board of education may specify the type of clothing and footwear that a school may require in implementing a mandatory school uniform policy.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local expenditures would only increase if parents favor the use of school uniforms and if school systems decide to reimburse parents for the costs of the uniforms. Any costs associated with conducting a survey of parents are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## **Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** Public school enrollment statewide is projected to total approximately 836,000 by the 1999-2000 school year. About 31% (259,160) of the total enrollment qualifies for free or reduced price meals. School uniforms cost between \$20 to \$40, depending upon the type required. It is estimated that each child would need at least three uniforms. If a school system chooses to reimburse parents of low income children (defined as those receiving free or reduced price meals) for the costs of the uniforms, local expenditures could increase by \$15.5 to \$31 million annually. However, if the student's parents are responsible for paying the uniform's costs, local expenditures would not be affected.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 1998

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