

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 741 (Senator Middleton)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Student Teachers and Interns - Criminal Background Disclosure Form

This bill requires student teachers and interns whose program of study requires classroom experience in a public or private school to complete a criminal background disclosure form obtained through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) before entering a field placement in a school setting.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Form design and set-up and printing costs for disclosure forms are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within MSDE's existing budget authorization.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Approximately 5,000 individuals graduate from approved teaching programs in Maryland each year. Assuming these individuals perform student teaching in public or private schools, they would be required to complete a criminal background disclosure form.

Under current law, local school systems must conduct a criminal history record check on school employees who care for or supervise children or have access to children. MSDE advises that in actual practice local school systems conduct background checks on all school employees. While this bill would not require criminal background checks on student teachers or interns, school systems could use the disclosure forms to conduct such checks.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Boards of Education

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 1999

ncs/jr

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510