

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 52 (Delegate Owings)

Ways and Means

Education - Public Schools - Domicile

This bill enables a student to attend a public school in the county where the student is domiciled with an individual serving as the student's parent in the absence of the parent or guardian. Under current law, a student must attend a school in the jurisdiction where the student's parents or guardian reside; however, the local board of education can waive this requirement and allow a non-resident student to attend a county school.

The bill also grants an individual serving as a student's parent authority to exempt a child from kindergarten, delay a child's start to school for up to 1 year, and to withdraw the child from public school. Under current law, such authority is only granted to parents and legal guardians.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate increase in local expenditures. Potential decrease in local revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Altering the State's current residency requirement would increase local school expenditures if additional students enroll in a local school system. For example, Howard County only admits students whose parents or guardians hold legal residence within the county. Pupil service workers investigate student records to ensure that the student's legal

custodian resides within the county. Around 500 students each year attempt to attend Howard County schools illegally. Pursuant to the bill's provision, many of these students would be permitted to attend the county's school system. If all of these students gain admission to the county's school system, Howard County school expenditures would increase by over \$3.5 million annually. This estimate is based on a \$7,178 per pupil operating cost.

In addition, local tuition revenues could decrease if a school system is no longer permitted to charge tuition to these students. For example, in Howard County, approximately 100 non-resident students pay tuition in order to attend the county schools. Potential revenue loss could reach \$500,000 in Howard County alone. This is based on a tuition rate of \$4,790 per full-time student.

The actual impact on local school systems depends on the number of non-resident students that gain entry to a county school system and the local tuition rate.

Additional Comments: The cost of educating students varies throughout the State, ranging from \$5,730 in Caroline County to \$8,170 in Montgomery County. The statewide per pupil expenditure totaled \$6,688 in fiscal 1997. Since education funding is shared by the federal, State, and local governments, the level of local support for public school varies. For example, in 1997, local governments contributed 55% of total education funding, with the State providing 41%. The local share ranges from 29% in Baltimore City to 77% in Montgomery County. **Exhibit 1** shows a county-by-county breakdown.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Howard County Public School System

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 1999

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Exhibit 1
Local School Funding and Cost - Fiscal 1997

<u>County</u>	<u>Local Share</u>	<u>State Share</u>	<u>Per Pupil Expenditure</u>
Allegany	33.5%	58.8%	\$6,009
Anne Arundel	59.8%	37.7%	6,491
Baltimore City	28.9%	60.0%	6,520
Baltimore	61.3%	34.8%	6,762
Calvert	57.2%	39.8%	6,172
Caroline	32.4%	62.4%	5,730
Carroll	51.9%	45.7%	6,060
Cecil	44.5%	52.1%	5,885
Charles	49.9%	47.4%	6,217
Dorchester	40.3%	52.0%	6,439
Frederick	53.0%	44.7%	6,024
Garrett	37.5%	55.3%	6,211
Harford	48.9%	48.1%	5,987
Howard	67.8%	30.7%	7,178
Kent	55.2%	39.8%	7,092
Montgomery	76.8%	21.1%	8,170
Prince George's	51.5%	45.6%	6,434
Queen Anne's	56.5%	39.5%	6,391
St. Mary's	45.7%	49.0%	6,282
Somerset	31.5%	58.7%	6,902
Talbot	71.1%	25.0%	6,314
Washington	42.7%	52.5%	5,951
Wicomico	40.2%	55.0%	5,951
Worcester	75.2%	20.1%	<u>6,749</u>
Statewide	55.1%	40.8%	\$6,688

Note: Local share equals the percent of school revenue coming from local sources (county appropriation and fees); State share equals the percent of school revenue coming from the State.

Source: Department of Legislative Services, January 1999
