

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 724 (Delegate Bozman. *et al.*)

Judiciary

**Child Abuse and Neglect - Private and Parochial Educators - Failure to Report -
Penalty**

This bill makes it a crime for an educator in a private or parochial school to fail to report incidents of child abuse or neglect to the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a \$500 maximum fine and/or a maximum of 90 days in prison.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill's monetary penalty provision from cases heard in the District Court. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in expenditures due to the bill's penalty provision.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Under current law, health practitioners, police officers, educators, and human service workers must report allegations of child abuse and neglect to the department of social services or law enforcement agencies.

Local Effect: Expenditures could increase as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty. Counties pay the full cost of incarceration for the first 90 days of the sentence. Per diem operating costs of local detention facilities are expected to range from \$15 to \$80 per inmate in fiscal 2000. The number of people convicted of this proposed crime is expected to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 1999
ncs/jr

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