

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 485 (Delegate Gettv. *et al.*)

Judiciary

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**Education - Notice of Arrest - Controlled Dangerous Substance Offenses**

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This bill requires a law enforcement agency to notify the local superintendent of schools when a student is arrested for an offense involving controlled dangerous substances. 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.

The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

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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 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 weapon violations and by State's Attorneys when the cases are adjudicated by the courts. As illustrated in **Exhibit 1**, juveniles committed over 13,400 violent criminal acts in 1997. That same year, juveniles committed around 8,500 drug related offenses. Expanding the definition

of reportable offenses to include controlled dangerous substances would result in a 56% increase in the number of cases being reported to school officials.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Violent Crime Committed by Juveniles**

<b>Criminal Offense</b>	<b>Incidents</b>
Murder/Manslaughter	75
Forcible Rape	98
Sexual Assault	400
Robbery	1,483
Felonious Assault	2,083
Other Assaults	7,941
Weapons Violations	1,384
<b>Total Offenses*</b>	<b>13,464</b>

\*May not include all types of violent criminal offenses.  
Source: Uniform Crime Report, Maryland State Police

As illustrated in **Exhibit 2**, Baltimore City comprises 39% of the drug related juvenile offenses, followed by Baltimore County with 11%, Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties with 8%, and Montgomery County with 7%. Baltimore City advises that its police department currently provides similar information for other crimes and offenses by juveniles. The addition of controlled dangerous substance offenses to a list submitted to the city school system would not add any additional costs to the police department or school system.

Given Baltimore City’s response and the distribution of offenses across the State, it is anticipated that law enforcement agencies and State’s Attorney offices could handle the reporting requirements within existing resources.

**Exhibit 2  
Juvenile Narcotic Cases - Fiscal 1998**

County	Narcotics Possession	Narcotics Distribution	County	Narcotics Possession	Narcotics Distribution
Allegany	58	14	Harford	201	40
Anne Arundel	515	96	Howard	190	17
Baltimore City	1,109	1,851	Kent	40	1
Baltimore	681	146	Montgomery	473	71
Calvert	90	13	Prince George's	451	188
Caroline	30	7	Queen Anne's	60	2
Carroll	116	12	St. Mary's	77	11
Cecil	80	19	Somerset	29	7
Charles	112	10	Talbot	35	8
Dorchester	50	4	Washington	82	73
Frederick	140	60	Wicomico	83	29
Garrett	15	0	Worcester	176	8

	Narcotics Possession	Narcotics Distribution	Total Narcotics
Grand Total	4,893	2,687	7,580

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

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dmm/jr

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