

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1066 (Delegate Gettv)

Ways and Means

Public School Holidays - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

This bill establishes Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a public school holiday and repeals primary and general election days as public school holidays. The bill repeals the requirement that public schools devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential increase in local expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Expenditures: Under current law, public schools in 17 counties and Baltimore City are closed on primary and general election days. In six counties (Calvert, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, and Worcester), public schools may remain open and in session on primary and general election days. In many jurisdictions, local boards of elections use public schools as polling places which is less costly than using privately owned buildings. By requiring public schools to remain open on primary and general election days, local election boards may not be able to use the public schools as polling places. In Worcester County, however, the local elections board uses three public schools as polling places, even though they are open and in session on primary and general election days.

In addition, adding one additional holiday to the public school calendar will not alter the number of days that schools are required to remain in session. Currently, all 24 school systems are closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Worcester County Board of Elections

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 1999

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Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510