

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 668 (Delegate La Vav. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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Delegate Scholarships - Primary and Secondary Nonpublic Schools

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This bill authorizes a Delegate Scholarship to be used at a nonpublic primary and secondary school if the recipient of the scholarship is currently attending a public school that is subject to reconstitution.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. State funding for student scholarships and the administration of the Delegate Scholarships program would not be directly affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Fiscal Analysis

**Background:** By February 1 of each year, the State Superintendent of Schools identifies public schools that are eligible for reconstitution and possible State intervention. A public school is eligible for reconstitution if it does not perform at least satisfactory in all the standards in the State performance areas and its average in those areas is below satisfactory and is declining or the school does not show substantial and sustained improvement from the prior year. As of January 26, 1999, 97 schools have been identified as being eligible for reconstitution: 83 in Baltimore City, 12 in Prince George's County, 1 in Anne Arundel County, and 1 in Somerset County.

**State Effect:** The proposed fiscal 2000 budget includes \$2,756,268 for Delegate Scholarships, or \$19,548 per legislative district. The average scholarship award totals \$775.

Under current law, Delegate Scholarships can be awarded to degree seeking undergraduate and graduate students attending a four-year or two-year public institution of higher education, a private institution, or a private career school. Pursuant to this bill, students attending a public school that is subject to reconstitution would be eligible to receive a scholarship to attend a non-public primary and secondary school. While this bill may reduce the number of scholarships offered to students seeking post-secondary education, it would not affect overall State expenditures.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Higher Education Commission

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 1999  
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