

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1280 (Delegate Burns)

Ways and Means

Public Schools - Core Curriculum Course - Textbook - Required

This bill requires local boards of education to provide an instructional textbook for a core curriculum course for each student in a public school.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Indeterminate increase in local school expenditures. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Local boards of education must adopt procedures for the selection and purchase of textbooks and other instructional materials. These items must be provided in sufficient quantities and at no cost for use in public schools.

Background: Local school superintendents are responsible for submitting a budget request to the local board for approval. A local school superintendent's budget request may not include the necessary funds to ensure that public schools have sufficient quantities of textbooks and other instructional materials. Local boards of education have significant discretion in developing school budgets, with funding for school textbooks based upon local spending priorities. In fiscal 1998, total school expenditures (current expense fund) in

Maryland increased by \$313.8 million or 6%. Salaries and benefits accounted for 74% of the increase and the purchase of textbooks accounted for 0.8% of the increase.

Local school systems spent \$30 million in fiscal 1998 to purchase textbooks. As shown in **Exhibit 1**, the per pupil expenditure for school textbooks ranges from less than \$15 in Dorchester County to over \$100 in Somerset County. Somerset County, which is the third poorest school district in the State as determined by local wealth per pupil, spent almost 3% of the school system's instructional costs on textbooks. In comparison, Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties, which are among the State's wealthiest school districts, spent less than 1% of total instructional costs on textbooks.

Local Fiscal Effect: There are approximately 764,000 public school students in grades one through 12. The Maryland State Department of Education advises that elementary school students are enrolled in five core courses and secondary school students are enrolled in four, resulting in the need for a total of 3.45 million textbooks. Local school systems already have a considerable number of textbooks to meet this requirement. Each public school textbook costs approximately \$60.

Local boards of education may have to purchase additional textbooks in order to comply with the bill's requirement. Assuming that each public school has to purchase one additional textbook for 10% of its students, local school expenditures could total \$4.5 million. State education aid under the current expense formula will increase by \$53.9 million in fiscal 2001. A portion of this increase could be used to purchase new textbooks. In addition, local boards may be able to find existing textbooks for use in school classrooms.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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Exhibit 1
Local School Systems Expenditures on Textbooks
Fiscal 1998

County	FTE Enrollment 9/30/97	Instructional Costs	Textbook Costs	Per Pupil Textbook Costs	Percent of Instructional Costs
Allegany	10,476.75	\$31,587,591	\$444,388	\$42.42	1.4%
Anne Arundel	69,843.50	204,858,808	1,749,034	25.04	0.9%
Baltimore City	98,972.25	282,892,761	4,648,263	46.97	1.6%
Baltimore	97,921.25	314,229,794	4,257,488	43.48	1.4%
Calvert	13,982.50	41,142,262	677,001	48.42	1.6%
Caroline	5,261.50	15,382,069	254,127	48.30	1.7%
Carroll	25,633.00	70,764,134	697,976	27.23	1.0%
Cecil	14,320.50	39,779,606	548,622	38.31	1.4%
Charles	20,367.75	57,629,791	731,995	35.94	1.3%
Dorchester	4,777.75	15,738,978	70,926	14.85	0.5%
Frederick	32,752.50	96,632,973	923,573	28.20	1.0%
Garrett	4,987.75	15,250,781	150,310	30.14	1.0%
Harford	36,274.25	105,151,003	1,708,754	47.11	1.6%
Howard	38,501.50	123,100,004	1,440,019	37.40	1.2%
Kent	2,653.00	10,673,176	122,815	46.29	1.2%
Montgomery	118,016.25	459,065,028	3,608,510	30.58	0.8%
Prince George's	120,505.50	353,030,764	4,228,540	35.09	1.2%
Queen Anne's	6,125.75	18,848,418	247,406	40.39	1.3%
St. Mary's	13,611.75	39,391,999	609,288	44.76	1.5%
Somerset	2,877.75	10,521,638	288,407	100.22	2.7%
Talbot	4,263.00	13,035,043	196,636	46.13	1.5%
Washington	18,901.25	56,880,421	1,183,676	62.62	2.1%
Wicomico	13,137.25	39,598,145	889,846	67.73	2.2%
Worcester	6,401.50	22,505,237	352,745	55.10	1.6%
Statewide	780,565.75	\$2,437,690,424	\$30,030,345	\$38.47	1.2%

Source: Selected Financial Data, Maryland State Department of Education
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