

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
 Revised

House Bill 552 (Delegate Hubbard. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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Special Education - Extending Age of Eligibility

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This bill extends the time period during which a child is eligible to receive special education services to the end of the school year in which the child turns 21 years of age.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$90,000 in FY 2001. Future year expenditures reflect inflation and enrollment growth. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	\$90,000	\$99,000	\$108,000	\$118,000	\$129,000
Net Effect	(\$90,000)	(\$99,000)	(\$108,000)	(\$118,000)	(\$129,000)

Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds

**Local Effect:** Local school expenditures would increase by \$543,000 in FY 2001, increasing to \$778,000 in FY 2005. Local revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The State and local boards of education are required to provide a free and appropriate public education to each child with a disability through the age of 20.

**Background:** State aid for special education recognizes the additional costs associated with providing programs for students with disabilities. Most special education students receive services in the public schools; however, if an appropriate program is not available in the public schools, students may be placed in a private school offering more specialized services. The State provides funds for special education students placed in non-public day and residential programs. Local boards of education are responsible for the local share of the basic costs of educating a non-disabled child plus 200% of the total basic costs. Any costs above the base amount are shared between the State and local boards on an 80% State/20% local basis. The proposed fiscal 2001 budget for special education includes \$81.3 million to local school systems and \$91.6 million for non-public placements.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Approximately 24,000 high school students receive special education services in Maryland public schools. This bill extends the time period during which a child is eligible to receive special education services to the end of the school year in which the child turns 21 years of age. As a course of practice, most local school systems provide services to these students through the end of the semester in which they turn 21. Therefore, most students turning 21 after the start of the second semester are already served until the end of the school year. In addition, eight local school systems currently provide special education services through the end of the school year. These school systems include Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Garrett, Harford, and Prince George's. This bill would extend special education services to students who turn 21 before the start of the second semester in the remaining 16 local school systems.

Approximately 135 students in non-public placements will turn 21 during the course of the school year. Of these students, 107 attend school in a jurisdiction where special education services are provided through the end of the school year. Twenty-eight students attend school in a jurisdiction where special education services are not provided through the end of the school year for students who turn 21 during the course of the year. It is estimated that 14 students would turn 21 after the start of the second semester and would be able to complete the school year. Fourteen students would turn 21 before the start of the second semester and would receive an additional semester of special education services. The estimated cost for these services totals \$240,000, of which \$90,000 is paid by the State and \$150,000 is paid by the local school system.

Approximately 446 students in a public school special education program will turn 21 during the course of the school year. However, State expenditures for public school special education programs would not increase since the students are already included in the September 30 full-time equivalent count.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local school expenditures for special education services and non-

public placements would increase by \$543,000 in fiscal 2001. Increased expenditures in fiscal 2001 include \$150,000 for non-public placements and \$393,000 for special education services within public schools which includes both instructional and transportation services. The projected impact on local school systems in fiscal 2001 through fiscal 2005 is set forth below.

FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
\$543,000	\$594,000	\$650,000	\$711,000	\$778,000

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source:** Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2000  
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