

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1194 (Delegate Finifter. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Elementary and Secondary Education - Textbook Funding for Private Schools

This bill provides that State funding for textbooks for a private school is contingent upon the State receiving a signed written statement from the Superintendent of Schools for the county in which a private school is located acknowledging that the county board has furnished textbooks and other instructional materials at no cost and in sufficient quantities for use in the public schools.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Proposed State funding for textbooks for nonpublic schools could be reduced if local school superintendents fail to sign a written acknowledgment that sufficient quantities of textbooks and other instructional materials have been provided by the local board of education. The proposed FY 2001 State budget includes \$6 million from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to provide textbooks for nonpublic schools.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful impact on private schools that are eligible to receive State funding for textbooks.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland does not provide funding to nonpublic schools for the purchase of textbooks. The proposed fiscal 2001 State budget includes \$6 million in special funds from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to provide textbooks for nonpublic schools.

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 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.

State Fiscal Effect: Proposed State funding for textbooks for nonpublic schools could be reduced if local school superintendents fail to sign a written acknowledgment that textbooks and other instructional materials have been provided by the local board of education in sufficient quantities. 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.

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

<u>County</u>	<u>FTE Enrollment 9/30/97</u>	<u>Instructional Costs</u>	<u>Textbook Costs</u>	<u>Per Pupil Textbook Costs</u>	<u>Percent of Instructional Costs</u>
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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