

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 667 (Delegate La Vav. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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**Delegate Scholarships - Elementary and Secondary Nonpublic Schools and Tutoring Services**

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

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

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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:** None.

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**Analysis**

**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.

**Background:** The proposed fiscal 2001 State budget includes \$2,866,518 for Delegate Scholarships, or \$20,330 per legislative district. The average scholarship award totals \$840.

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 or to

receive tutoring services. While this bill may reduce the number of scholarships offered to students seeking post-secondary education, it would not affect overall State expenditures.

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 a satisfactory level in all the standards in the State performance areas and if 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 February 2000, three schools in Baltimore City are in the process of being reconstituted and 93 schools have been identified as being eligible for reconstitution (80 in Baltimore City, 12 in Prince George's County, and one in Anne Arundel County). One school in Somerset County has made improvements in student performance and has been taken off the reconstitution eligible list.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced at the 1999 session as HB 668 and received an unfavorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2000

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