

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 107 (Chairman, Budget and Taxation Committee)
(Departmental - Education)

Budget and Taxation

Education - Public Education Partnership Fund

This departmental bill establishes a Public Education Partnership Fund within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for the purpose of increasing private contributions for public schools.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential increase in State special fund revenues resulting from additional private contributions for public schools. MSDE currently receives about \$50,000 in private contributions annually. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: MSDE has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill establishes the Public Education Partnership Fund within MSDE for the purpose of: (1) enhancing cooperation between the private sector and public education entities; (2) facilitating the expansion and development of new partnership initiatives; (3) encouraging the donation of corporate and foundation dollars to expand the outreach capacity of the department; and (4) strengthening the development of family and community

involvement in public education.

The State Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the State Superintendent, is authorized to use the money in the fund to achieve certain objectives. These objectives include, but are not limited to: (1) preparation and distribution of information packets and brochures; (2) development of public service announcements; (3) development of seminars and training programs focusing on public education priorities; (4) development of a family and community involvement hot line; (5) establishing appropriate award systems for the recognition of educators and business contributions; and (6) evaluating and recommending methods to improve the efficiency and promote the growth of private sector and public education partnerships.

Expenditures from the fund shall be made pursuant to an appropriation approved by the General Assembly in the annual State budget or by a budget amendment. The fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund and is not subject to the requirement that unexpended funds revert back to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. In addition, the fund may not be used as a substitute for State general fund appropriations. The fund is subject to audit by the Legislative Auditor.

Current Law: A separate fund within MSDE to receive private contributions is not provided for in current law.

Background: Several state education departments have established similar funds to enhance private contributions for public schools. In Maryland, many local school systems, including Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, have established foundations to solicit funding from the private sector.

State Fiscal Effect: MSDE currently receives about \$50,000 from foundations and businesses to support education awards programs such as the Blue Ribbon Schools Program and the Teacher of the Year Program. This bill may increase State special fund revenues as a result of additional private contributions for public schools.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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