

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1369 (Delegate Dobson. *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Public Schools - Educational Assistants and Paraprofessional Employees - Certification

This bill requires educational assistants and paraprofessional employees of local school systems to receive State certification. The State Board of Education must adopt regulations governing certification standards, training, and maintenance of certification by July 1, 2002. The State board must establish conditions for employment for all new educational assistants including: (1) a high school diploma or general education diploma; (2) criminal history record information; and (3) proof of training or experience related to education, child care, or services to youth.

The State board must waive the initial certification requirement for employees with experience comparable to the training the employee would receive in a certification program. Local boards of education must provide training to all education assistants in the manner required by the State board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$166,000 in FY 2003. Future year expenditures reflect inflation and the elimination of one time start-up costs. Special fund revenues would increase by \$95,000 in FY 2003. Future year revenues are assumed to be considerably less.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$95,000	-	-
GF Expenditures	0	0	166,000	159,800	167,200
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	(\$71,000)	(\$159,800)	(\$167,200)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Significant increase in local school expenditures to provide training to

educational assistants and paraprofessional school employees to meet State certification requirements.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Educational assistants and paraprofessional school employees are not certified by the State.

State Fiscal Effect: There are approximately 9,500 educational assistants and paraprofessional employees working in local school systems. There are five staff specialists at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) responsible for certifying the State's teachers. MSDE would need to hire two additional staff specialists and one office secretary to review the school employees' transcripts and to ensure that certification requirements are met. General fund expenditures could increase by \$166,000 in fiscal 2003, which reflects the July 1, 2003 certification deadline imposed by the bill. Future year expenditures reflect annualization, inflation, and the elimination of one-time start-up expenses.

The Professional Standards and Teaching Education Board could impose a certification fee on educational assistants and paraprofessional school employees. Based on a one-time \$10 certification fee and all 9,500 individuals employed as educational assistants and paraprofessional school employees becoming certified, special fund revenues could increase by \$95,000 in fiscal 2003.

Local Fiscal Effect: Instructional programs for individuals applying for certification pursuant to this bill could be provided either by local school systems or local community colleges. The extent of any additional local expenditures would depend upon the type of certification required for educational assistants and paraprofessional school employees and whether existing courses could be put together to create a certification program. A minimum of six courses at a cost of \$100 per course may be needed for initial licensing. Assuming local school systems provide the required training at local community colleges, local expenditures could increase by \$5.7 million.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced in the 1995 session as HB 794 and

received an unfavorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee. In 1996, HB 1309 would have required educational assistants and paraprofessional school employees in Baltimore City to be licensed. The bill was amended to provide for a task force to study the issue and was passed by the General Assembly. In 1997, HB 1076 would have required educational assistants and paraprofessional school employees in Baltimore City to be licensed. The bill 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

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