

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1200 (Prince George's County Delegation)

Ways and Means

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**Prince George's County - Task Force to Study the Use of Substitute Teachers  
PG 409-01**

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This bill establishes an 11-member Task Force to Study the Use of Substitute Teachers in Prince George's County. The task force must review and make recommendations on: (1) the shortage of substitute teachers in the county; (2) the use of long-term substitute teachers; (3) qualifications of substitute teachers; and (4) related issues regarding substitute teachers. The task force must submit a final report by November 1, 2001.

The bill is effective June 1, 2001 and sunsets November 30, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs could be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** Although many Maryland school systems have struggled to attract and retain qualified teachers in recent years, Prince George's County has had more trouble than most, as evidenced by its proportion of provisionally certified teachers (17%) that is

the second highest in the State. As a result, the county's public school system has, at times, relied on long-term substitute teachers to staff classrooms for which an appropriate full-time teacher has not been hired. Aside from questions about the effects of long-term substitutes on students' educational experiences, this practice also depletes the number of substitute teachers available for use as normal day-to-day substitute teachers. The school system's Department of Staff Development and Instructional Support provides a special training program for substitute teachers that includes teaching strategies and classroom management skills.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 9, 2001  
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