

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 53 (Delegate Zirkin, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Education - Maryland Educational Opportunity Summer Pilot Program -  
Establishment**

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This bill establishes the Maryland Educational Opportunity Summer Pilot Program in Baltimore and Prince George's counties. The local boards of education in Baltimore and Prince George's counties are authorized to develop a proposal using existing faculty to provide educational services to students in kindergarten through grade 12 during the summer months.

The State board will select proposals with priority given to schools that show the lowest levels of improvement towards meeting the standards on the Maryland School Performance Program (MSPP). Upon approving a proposal, the State board must distribute funding to the local school system that covers the cost of extending the contracts of participating teachers to implement and operate the pilot program. The State Superintendent of Schools must report to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30, 2002 on the operation and performance of the pilot program. The report must assess the effectiveness and success of the pilot program in improving student achievement.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2001 and sunsets on June 30, 2002.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$380 for each student served by the pilot program. The number of students that would be selected to participate in the pilot program is not known. If the program is funded in FY 2002, teachers' retirement expenditures would increase in FY 2004.

**Local Effect:** State aid and local school expenditures in Baltimore and Prince George’s counties would increase in FY 2002. The State would cover the entire cost of the Maryland Educational Opportunity Summer Pilot Program.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** State and local governments provide a variety of programs to supplement academic services for low-performing students. These programs include before- and after-school sessions, school community centers, summer school programs, and recreational programs.

**Background:** The Maryland School Performance Program (MSPP), which was established in 1989 by the Governor’s Commission on School Performance, defines acceptable academic achievement in Maryland and acts as Maryland’s school accountability system. The program sets standards for functional test passing rates, dropout rates, and attendance rates. The cornerstone of MSPP is the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP), which consists of tests that are given to public school students in third, fifth, and eighth grades and cover six academic areas (reading, writing, language usage, mathematics, science, and social studies). **Exhibit 1** shows the MSPAP scores for each local school system. Beginning with the Class of 2007, Maryland will extend the rigorous testing standards established by MSPAP to high school students who will have to pass exams in English, algebra, geometry, biology, and government in order to earn a high school diploma.

**Exhibit 1**  
**2000 Composite MSPAP Scores**  
**(Percent of Students Performing at Satisfactory Level)**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 5</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
Kent	62.0	78.0	49.7	59.3
Howard	61.4	59.9	63.5	61.0
Harford	55.7	52.2	55.9	59.0
Montgomery	55.4	50.5	57.6	58.0
Calvert	55.0	50.7	55.2	59.1
Washington	54.4	50.3	55.7	57.1
Carroll	54.1	50.4	55.5	56.3
Cecil	51.5	51.6	53.7	49.0

Frederick	51.0	47.0	53.9	52.2
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>51.9</b>
Queen Anne's	50.8	49.3	51.8	51.1
Worcester	50.2	50.1	48.2	52.7
Caroline	49.8	52.1	47.0	50.4
St. Mary's	49.4	52.1	49.9	45.8
Garrett	48.2	43.9	45.6	55.8
Anne Arundel	47.5	46.0	51.5	44.7
Allegany	47.4	45.9	50.1	46.2
Charles	46.7	40.0	46.3	53.4
Talbot	44.4	39.5	46.9	47.1
Wicomico	43.0	43.2	45.9	39.7
Dorchester	42.7	47.7	42.8	37.9
Somerset	38.7	38.5	40.1	37.6
<b>Prince George's</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>31.0</b>
Baltimore City	20.5	20.4	22.5	18.3
State	45.3	42.8	46.9	46.1
<b>State Standard</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) established the Maryland Academic Intervention and Support Program to improve the performance of students with documented academic deficiencies and to prepare students for the high school assessments that students will have to pass in order to graduate. The State board recommended that \$45 million be included in the State budget to fund this program in fiscal 2001; however, the program received only \$12 million in funding for that year. Legislation adopted at the 2000 session requires the Governor to include \$19.5 million in funding for this program in fiscal 2002. Under current law, funding for this program is distributed to local school systems based on the percentage of students scoring less than 70% on the reading and math portions of the Maryland School Performance and Assessment Program (MSPAP). MSDE estimates that there are approximately 400,000 students in grades 1 through 12 that need intervention services of which approximately 130,000 of these students attend school in Baltimore and Prince George's counties. Approximately 32,700 middle school students statewide received intervention services during fiscal 2001 under this program.

Chapter 586 of 1999 established the Maryland-After-School Opportunity Fund Program. The program provides grants to local school systems and organizations that offer before- and after-school programs for children. The proposed fiscal 2002 State budget includes \$10 million for this program and an additional \$2.5 million for a special program in Baltimore City. In addition, the proposed fiscal 2002 State budget includes \$510,000 in funding to local school systems for a pilot summer program.

**State and Local Fiscal Effect:** A summer intervention program lasting for 20 days would cost approximately \$380 per student, of which \$360 is for salaries and local fringe benefits and \$20 is for instructional materials and supplies. This is based on an average class size of 15 students and an average teacher salary of \$47,800. If the State board approves proposals that last longer than four weeks or that have smaller class sizes, program costs would increase. It is assumed that 95% of the funding will be used to pay for salaries and local fringe benefits and that 5% will pay for instructional materials and supplies. Pursuant to the bill, the pilot program would be funded as provided in the State budget. Currently, no State funds designated specifically for this pilot program are included in the proposed fiscal 2002 State budget.

The State is responsible for paying the retirement costs for teachers and many other school employees. Since the State payments for teachers' retirement costs are based on the salary base in the second prior year, State expenditures would increase in fiscal 2004.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced at the 2000 session as HB 480; however, no action was taken on the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – January 30, 2001  
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