

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 434

(Delegate Hecht, *et al*)

Ways and Means

Budget and Taxation & Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Education - School Library Funds**

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This bill enables local boards of education to use State funding under the School Library Media Incentive Program to enhance middle and high school libraries. In addition, the bill alters the definition of “new local school board funds” by including funding provided to middle and high school libraries.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** This bill conforms State law to current practice. State expenditures would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** Enabling local school systems to use State funding under the School Library Media Incentive Program at middle and high schools will not affect the overall amount of State funding provided to local school systems.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Governor is required to include \$3 million in the State budget for the School Library Media Incentive Program for the purpose of enhancing elementary school libraries. To receive State funding under the program, local school systems must match the State grant dollar for dollar with new local school board funds. The new local school board funding must be in excess of the amount provided to elementary school libraries in fiscal 1998. State funding for this program sunsets after fiscal 2002.

**Background:** This program was established in 1998 as part of the School Accountability Funding for Excellence (SAFE) legislation for the purpose of improving elementary school library programs, with priority given to updating library books and other resource collections. Annual funding is set at \$3 million with each local school system's funding based on its proportionate share of the September 1997 enrollment count. To receive State funding under the program, local school systems must match the State grants with new local funding.

In fiscal 1999, the first year State funding was provided, four local school systems (Allegany, Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Somerset counties) did not apply for the grants because of maintenance of effort concerns and the inability to meet the local matching requirement. Two other local school systems (Montgomery and Talbot counties) did not qualify for all their funding. In fiscal 2000, two local school systems (Allegany and Talbot) did not apply for the grants and three other local school systems (Anne Arundel, Howard, and Somerset counties) did not qualify for all their funding. **Exhibit 1** shows the amount of program funding and the amount received for each local school system.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) advises that current regulations base the required local matching funds for State funds on school library expenditures at elementary, middle, and high schools even though State law requires that the local matching funds be based on school library expenditures at elementary schools. Accordingly, this legislation will conform State law to existing practices within MSDE.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 16, 2001  
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**Exhibit 1**  
**School Library Media Incentive Program**

| <u>County</u>   | <u>Authorized<br/>Funding</u> | <u>Actual<br/>FY 1999</u> | <u>Actual<br/>FY 2000</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allegany        | \$40,266                      | -                         | -                         |
| Anne Arundel    | 268,456                       | -                         | 60,000                    |
| Baltimore City  | 380,390                       | 380,390                   | 380,000                   |
| Baltimore       | 376,316                       | 376,316                   | 376,316                   |
| Calvert         | 53,740                        | 53,740                    | 53,740                    |
| Caroline        | 20,218                        | 20,218                    | 20,218                    |
| Carroll         | 98,518                        | -                         | 98,518                    |
| Cecil           | 55,039                        | 55,039                    | 55,039                    |
| Charles         | 78,281                        | 78,281                    | 78,281                    |
| Dorchester      | 18,382                        | 18,302                    | 18,382                    |
| Frederick       | 125,881                       | 125,881                   | 125,881                   |
| Garrett         | 19,170                        | 19,170                    | 19,170                    |
| Harford         | 139,416                       | 139,416                   | 139,416                   |
| Howard          | 147,977                       | 147,977                   | 140,000                   |
| Kent            | 10,197                        | 10,197                    | 10,197                    |
| Montgomery      | 453,584                       | 423,547                   | 453,584                   |
| Prince George's | 463,151                       | 463,151                   | 463,151                   |
| Queen Anne's    | 23,544                        | 23,544                    | 23,500                    |
| St. Mary's      | 52,289                        | 52,289                    | 52,289                    |
| Somerset        | 11,060                        | -                         | 6,000                     |
| Talbot          | 16,384                        | 14,639                    | -                         |
| Washington      | 72,645                        | 72,645                    | 72,645                    |
| Wicomico        | 50,492                        | 50,492                    | 50,492                    |
| Worcester       | 24,604                        | 24,604                    | 24,604                    |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$3,000,000</b>            | <b>\$2,549,838</b>        | <b>\$2,721,423</b>        |

Note: Amounts in bold indicate reduction over authorized amounts.