

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 714 (Senator Van Hollen, *et al.*)
Budget and Taxation

Maryland After-School Opportunity Act - Appropriation - Requirements

This bill requires the Governor to include at least \$20 million in the fiscal 2003 State budget for the Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund. Of this amount, \$10 million is subject to a local matching requirement with the maximum grant amount for any one recipient capped at \$2.5 million.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$20 million in FY 2003. Revenues would not be affected. The proposed fiscal 2002 State budget includes \$10 million for this program.

Local Effect: Local governments may receive up to \$20 million in funding for after-school programs in FY 2003. A portion of the grants, however, could go to private providers, thereby reducing the amount available to local schools and to other government agencies. In addition, local governments would have to provide a matching grant to qualify for \$10 million of the funding.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 586 of 1999 (HB 6) established the Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund Program to provide funding to organizations with after-school programs (for children). The Governor must include \$10 million in the fiscal 2001 State

budget for this program; however, there are no statutory provisions requiring future funding amounts for this program.

The total grants awarded to applicants operating within a particular county or Baltimore City may not exceed 15% of the total grants awarded in that fiscal year. In addition, recipients of funding under the program are not subject to a matching requirement. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) administers the fund as directed by an executive committee. The executive committee is comprised of the Governor; the State Superintendent of Schools; and the Secretaries of Human Resources, Health and Mental Hygiene, Juvenile Justice, and the Office for Children, Youth, and Families. The executive committee must consult with an advisory committee consisting of State officials, parents, students, a teacher, and community representatives.

The executive committee is required to review and update the comprehensive plan of after-school opportunity programs each year. This plan must address: (1) the integration of funding sources; (2) maximization of federal funding opportunities; (3) the promotion of the use of school buildings and local public transportation resources for after-school opportunity programs; (4) the use of local child care resource and referral centers for technical assistance purposes; (5) the promotion of continued expansion of high quality after-school opportunity programs in the State; and (6) the consideration of implementing the full range of options for improving the delivery of after-school opportunity programs.

The executive committee must develop the first comprehensive plan of after-school opportunity programs by December 15, 1999, and must report to the General Assembly by December 31 of each year on the implementation of the program.

Background: The Governor's proposed fiscal 2002 budget includes \$10 million for the fund and an additional \$2.5 million to Baltimore City. The After-School Opportunity Fund Advisory Board has submitted its first comprehensive plan on how the after-school program will operate beginning in fiscal 2001. The plan will distribute \$9.25 million in funds through the Local Management Boards to local jurisdictions.

Local management boards received a base grant of \$50,000, while several received additional competitive grant awards. Programs are operating in 11 jurisdictions: Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Somerset, St. Mary's, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties and Baltimore City. Requests for proposals have been issued in four jurisdictions: Baltimore, Frederick, Howard, and Prince George's counties. Implementation activities are underway in Calvert, Carroll, Montgomery, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. **Exhibit 1** shows the grants awarded to each jurisdiction.

Exhibit 1

Maryland After-school Opportunity Fund Program Allocation of Funds to Local Management Boards

Allegany	\$69,838	Harford	\$180,375
Anne Arundel	521,300	Howard	400,750
Baltimore City	1,499,925	Kent	50,000
Baltimore County	1,260,088	Montgomery	1,353,975
Calvert	257,963	Prince George's	1,353,975
Caroline	50,000	Queen Anne's	200,000
Carroll	274,251	Somerset	210,000
Cecil	267,700	St. Mary's	282,787
Charles	113,775	Talbot	150,000
Dorchester	50,000	Washington	103,600
Frederick	327,811	Wicomico	80,937
Garrett	142,000	Worcester	50,000

Source: Department of Human Resources, Child Care Administration

State Fiscal Effect: This bill would provide \$20 million in funding for the Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund in fiscal 2003. Of this amount, \$10 million is subject to a local matching requirement with the maximum grant amount for any one recipient capped at \$2.5 million.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar bills were introduced at the 2000 session as SB 730 and HB 739. The bills were not reported out of committee.

Cross File: HB 1135 (Delegate Shriver) – Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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