

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 749

(Senator Colburn)

Finance

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**Public School Employees and Employers - Collective Bargaining - Eastern Shore  
Counties**

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This bill extends collective bargaining rights to noncertificated school employees who work for school systems on the Eastern Shore (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Potential significant increase in local school expenditures for Eastern Shore counties due to labor negotiation costs and potential salary enhancements for noncertificated school employees.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Noncertificated school employees in Eastern Shore counties do not have collective bargaining rights. Full-time noncertificated school employees in all other counties have collective bargaining rights, as do certificated employees in all local school systems.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local school expenditures could increase due to additional labor negotiations with employee organizations and increased salaries for employees granted collective bargaining rights. The Eastern Shore of Maryland Education Consortium

estimates the annual fiscal impact at approximately \$540,000, although some individual counties have estimated higher costs.

Several Eastern Shore school systems advise that additional personnel, including attorneys and consultants, would be needed in order to comply with the bill's requirements. The costs to Eastern Shore school systems would vary depending on current local practices and available personnel, with two counties (Cecil and Worcester) estimating increased personnel expenditures of approximately \$100,000 each. Another potential cost for Eastern Shore school systems is increased salaries for noncertificated school employees. These increases cannot be reliably estimated at this time, but could be significant for some counties.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Eastern Shore of Maryland Education Consortium; Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Wicomico, and Worcester counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 16, 2001  
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