

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 921
Ways and Means

(Delegate Gladden)

Baltimore City - School Safety Act of 2002

This bill requires Baltimore City school police officers to operate metal detectors and police scanners at the primary entrance of all public elementary and secondary schools in Baltimore City. At least one member of the Baltimore City School Police Force must be posted at each public school in the city during school hours.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City school expenditures would increase by an estimated \$6.2 million in FY 2003 to fund school police officers at every public school and to purchase metal detectors and police scanners for every public school. Future year expenditures would reflect salary increases and equipment maintenance and replacement costs. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Metal detectors and police scanners are not required in public elementary and secondary schools in Baltimore City. The city's school police officers are not required to be present in every public school.

Background: Members of the Baltimore City School Police Force are employees of the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and are hired by the board. School police officers have all the powers of law enforcement officers in Maryland while on

school premises and while on other property used for educational purposes. The force consists of approximately 96 officers, including 64 school-based police officers who work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The force also consists of a flex unit that responds to emergencies, a night response team, a truancy unit, a criminal investigations division, and an internal investigations division.

Local Expenditures: Baltimore County Public School System (BCPSS) expenditures would increase by an estimated \$6.2 million in fiscal 2003 to hire 100 additional school police officers and equip all 173 of its public elementary and secondary schools with metal detectors and police scanners. The information and assumptions used in calculating this estimate are stated below:

- To ensure that there is one school police officer in every school during school hours, BCPSS estimates that 100 additional police officers would be needed. BCPSS estimates that the average cost per officer for salary and fringe benefits would be \$45,000. Assuming the officers are hired in time for the 2002-2003 school year, BCPSS expenditures would increase by \$4.5 million in fiscal 2003.
- Each school would also have to be equipped with a metal detector and a police scanner. BCPSS estimates the costs for these items at \$10,000 per school, or a total of \$1.73 million in fiscal 2003.

Future year expenditures would reflect increased salaries and fringe benefits as well as maintenance and replacement costs for metal detectors and police scanners.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2002
ncs/hlb

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