

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 266

(Senators Hogan and Bromwell)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

**Education - Maryland School for the Blind - Funding**

This bill enhances the funding formula used to determine the minimum annual State appropriation to the Maryland School for the Blind. The enrollment figure used in the formula is adjusted to include one-third of the students served in the school's outreach program. The appropriation is also increased annually by 110% of the difference between the school's professional personnel costs in the prior fiscal year and the costs in the second prior fiscal year. Only school personnel who are paid under the Baltimore County Salary Scale are included in this calculation.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$799,588 in FY 2004 to pay the enhanced formula appropriation to the Maryland School for the Blind. Future year expenditures reflect incremental increases provided by the formula. No effect on revenues.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	.8	1.6	2.2	3.0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$.8)	(\$1.6)	(\$2.2)	(\$3.0)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** The funding formula used to determine the State appropriation to the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) uses pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment in the school plus one-half of the children served by the school's Early Intervention Program. The annual appropriation is based on changes in enrollment at MSB and growth in the per pupil basic current expense figure, which is used to calculate State aid to public schools. The professional staff employed by MSB must be paid salaries that are at least equal to the salaries paid to public school teachers and professional staff of similar training and experience in Baltimore County.

The same formula is used to determine the minimum State appropriation to the Maryland School for the Deaf.

**Background:** MSB was established in 1853 and is a private, nonprofit school serving blind, visually impaired, and multiply disabled students from all of Maryland's local school systems. Its mission is to educate children for functional independence.

**State Expenditures:** It is assumed that the bill would initially impact the annual appropriation to MSB in fiscal 2004. Based on projected MSB enrollments and estimated staff salary increases, general fund expenditures would increase by \$799,588 in fiscal 2004. Increases for fiscal 2005 through 2007 would be \$1.6 million, \$2.2 million, and \$3.0 million respectively.

Estimated appropriations to MSB under current law and under the bill are shown below.

	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>
SB 266	\$13,833,071	\$15,213,462	\$16,148,977	\$17,438,458
Current Law	<u>13,033,483</u>	<u>13,636,409</u>	<u>13,965,671</u>	<u>14,402,673</u>
Increased Cost	\$799,588	\$1,577,053	\$2,183,306	\$3,035,785

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2002  
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