

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 17
Ways and Means

(Delegate Boschert)

Anne Arundel County - Teacher Certification for Retired Professionals Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Teacher Certification for Retired Professionals Pilot Program in Anne Arundel County to be jointly administered by Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) and Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). Under the program, AACC may provide the coursework and clinical practice necessary for retired professionals to gain professional teaching certification through either an elementary or a secondary education track. Including clinical practice, the elementary track requires 39 credits hours and the secondary track requires 33 credit hours. A program participant who is employed by AACPS before completing the program requirements may request a waiver of the clinical practice requirement, and AACC may establish guidelines for issuing waivers. For each year that the program is administered, AACC and AACPS must report to the General Assembly and the Maryland State Department of Education on the program's effectiveness.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002 and sunsets June 30, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: AACC expenditures would increase by an estimated \$31,000 annually beginning in FY 2003 to fund the clinical practice component of the program for approximately 30 program participants. The increase in AACC expenditures could be offset by an increase in tuition revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: To obtain professional teaching certification, an applicant must earn the required credits from an approved teacher education program. A retired professional pursuing certification would attend a Master of Arts in Teaching program.

Background: The *Maryland Teacher Staffing Report, 2001 - 2003* notes that the State Board of Education projects a shortage of certified teachers for all 24 of Maryland's local school systems. The board also acknowledges a shortage of male teachers and minority teachers and recognizes several fields -- including technology education, computer science, mathematics, science, and special education -- as critical shortage areas. The State has implemented several programs over the last several years to combat this shortage. A program that exempts retired teachers and school administrators from earnings limitations if they return to schools was enacted in 1999. The Maryland Teacher Scholarship Program began distributing awards in fiscal 2000, and more than 5,000 awards totaling approximately \$22 million have been accepted. The Quality Teacher Incentive Act of 1999 established signing bonuses for new teachers who graduate in the top 10% of their classes, stipends for teachers who achieve national teaching certification, and stipends for advanced professional certificated teachers who teach in challenge schools and reconstituted schools.

Local Fiscal Effect: AACC currently offers teacher education classes that would fulfill the pilot program's course requirements. Retired professionals participating in the program would pay AACC the normal tuition costs associated with the courses. AACC expenditures would increase by an estimated \$31,000 annually to establish and oversee the clinical practice requirement for 30 program participants. This funding would be used to pay an adjunct faculty member to monitor participants, provide stipends to cooperating AACPS teacher mentors, and support ongoing program operations. Assuming tuition is charged for the clinical practice component of the program, tuition revenues could be used to offset these costs.

AACPS could contribute to the design and implementation of the program with existing resources. Although the school system would benefit from any increase in the number teachers applying to work in the system, there would not be a measurable impact on school finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: House Bill 94 of 2001 would have established a statewide program of teacher certification for retired professionals. The bill received an unfavorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel Community College, Department of Legislative Services

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