

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1088

(Delegate Bartlett)

Ways and Means

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**Public Schools - Extracurricular Activities - Home-Schooled and Private School Students**

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This bill authorizes a public school to allow home-schooled and private school students to participate in extracurricular school activities, including interscholastic athletics, music or drama programs, student organizations, and other programs sponsored by the school. The public school must give placement priority to a public school student if there are a limited number of spaces available for students in the extracurricular activity. Private school students must be enrolled at a school that does not sponsor the extracurricular activity.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Allowing nonpublic school students to participate in extracurricular activities would not affect local school expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Public schools are not statutorily authorized to allow home-schooled students and private school students to participate in extracurricular activities at public schools.

**Background:** There are currently 187,100 private school students and 17,383 home-schooled students in Maryland. Home-schooled students account for about 1.6% of school-aged students in Maryland. Based on an August 1, 2001 report from the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 1.7% of children ages 5 through 17 in America are home-schooled.

Some school districts across the country have established centers at which families may enroll their children in classes or obtain resources and instructional support. Such arrangements are called shared schooling, dual enrollment, or assisted home-schooling. Some school districts also allow home-schoolers to attend public school part-time, with about 18% of home-schoolers enrolled in part-time. In addition, about 11% of home-schoolers use books or materials from a public school and about 8% use a public school curriculum. Approximately 6% of home-schoolers participate in an extracurricular activity provided by a public school or school district.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced at the 2001 session as HB 1072. The bill received an unfavorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, U.S. Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2002  
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