

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 588 (Senator Kittleman)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Resident Teacher Corps Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Resident Teacher Corps Pilot Program as an alternate route into the teaching profession. The State Board of Education must award a resident teacher certificate to an applicant who: (1) holds at least a bachelor's degree with a concentration in a discipline appropriate to the curriculum that the applicant will teach; and (2) presents qualifying scores on the basic skills and required content teacher certification tests. The State board must award a professional certificate to a resident teacher who, after two consecutive years of satisfactory work experience in the Maryland public school system, presents a qualifying score on the pedagogy teacher certification test. The State board must report on the effectiveness of the program by June 30, 2006.

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

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education could handle a switch from a program established in COMAR to a program established in State law with existing resources.

Local Effect: No direct impact on local finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The resident teacher certificate program is established in COMAR. To qualify for a resident teacher certificate, an applicant must: (1) hold at least a bachelor's degree with a concentration in a discipline appropriate to the curriculum that the applicant will teach; (2) have received an average of "B" in the courses related to the area

of assignment; (3) submit qualifying scores on the basic skills and content teacher certification tests; and (4) complete 135 clock hours of study prior to employment as a resident teacher. During employment as a resident teacher, an individual must: (1) complete an additional 45 hours of study for secondary school resident teachers or an additional 135 hours of study for elementary school resident teachers; (2) receive mentoring each year as a resident teacher; (3) provide verification of satisfactory teaching performance each year as a resident teacher; and (4) submit qualifying scores on the remaining teacher certification tests.

Background: The resident teacher certification program established in COMAR was adopted by the State Board of Education in 1990 and has been in effect since 1991. The program is designed to attract qualified liberal arts graduates and individuals who are changing careers. The program has been used in four public school systems: Baltimore City and Howard, Prince George's, and Queen Anne's counties.

State Fiscal Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) advises that a shift from a program established in COMAR to a similar program established in State law could be handled with existing resources. However, if the program grows substantially as a result of this bill, additional personnel at MSDE might be needed to track program applicants and participants.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill would not have a direct effect on local school system expenditures or revenues. Local systems would benefit indirectly, however, if the bill results in increases to the number of available school teachers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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