

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1389 (Delegate Montague)
 Ways and Means

**County Boards of Education - Interagency Transition Teams to Assist Students
 in the Juvenile Justice System**

This bill requires each local board of education to establish an interagency transition team to facilitate placement in school and delivery of services for students under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The teams must act as the point of contact for DJJ regarding the educational case management needs of these students. Local departments of social services and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) must provide mental health and social development services to the students and must make agency contacts available to the transition teams.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$39,900 in FY 2003 for one position at DHMH to coordinate student service provision with local transition teams. Service costs could also increase. Future year expenditures reflect annualization, salary increases, and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	39,900	47,700	49,900	52,300	54,800
Net Effect	(\$39,900)	(\$47,700)	(\$49,900)	(\$52,300)	(\$54,800)

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

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures for larger systems would increase by an estimated \$1.65 million annually beginning in FY 2003. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Each of the 24 interagency transition teams must be composed of at least four members, including at least three members from the local school system and one member from the local office of juvenile justice. Each team must act as the point of contact for DJJ regarding the educational case management needs of students under the jurisdiction of DJJ. In addition, if a student is placed on home or community detention and remains within the local school system, the team must monitor the student's progress.

Each local interagency transition team must: (1) provide case management for students under the jurisdiction of DJJ; (2) facilitate appropriate placements for the students; (3) maintain records on the juvenile justice cases of the students; and (4) ensure that all mandated services are provided to the students. If a student is placed in a residential facility, a team must: (1) monitor the placement; (2) review the student's educational records; and (3) ensure that the student is receiving the proper educational and social development services through DJJ. If a student is returning to the local school system from a residential facility, the team must: (1) review the student's educational record and determine an appropriate educational placement; (2) ensure that the student is provided any needed services; and (3) monitor the student's progress.

Finally, each team must develop a reporting system that provides for frequent and timely communication with DJJ and students' parents.

Current Law: Local boards of education are not required to develop transition teams to oversee the provision of educational, mental health, and social development services to students who are under the jurisdiction of DJJ. In general, local DJJ offices have this responsibility.

State Expenditures: To the extent that students under the jurisdiction of DJJ are not currently receiving the services that are mandated by juvenile courts, the cost to provide services to students would increase. Some types of services, such as treatment for sex offenders and treatment for students with more severe mental illnesses, are scarce and costly. Any additional costs associated with ensuring that all students under the jurisdiction of DJJ receive appropriate services cannot be reliably estimated but could be significant.

General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$39,908 in fiscal 2003, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2002 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one special program coordinator at DHMH to work with interagency transition teams in local school systems to ensure that students under the jurisdiction of DJJ receive appropriate mental health and social development services. The estimate includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$34,147
Operating Expenses	<u>5,761</u>
Total FY 2003 State Expenditures	\$39,908

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) a full salary with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Local Expenditures: Each local school system would be required to develop an interagency transition team that includes at least three individuals from the local school system and one individual from the local DJJ office. It is assumed that smaller school systems that have few students under the jurisdiction of DJJ could develop the teams with existing personnel and resources. Larger school systems would need additional personnel to comply with bill's requirements.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) estimates that a total of 12 additional pupil personnel workers and 7 additional special education coordinators would be needed for the 5 largest school systems to comply with the bill's requirements. The additional personnel expenditures would be approximately \$1.65 million annually, which is based on estimated fiscal 2003 salaries of pupil personnel workers and special education coordinators in the five school systems. **Exhibit 1** shows the additional personnel by school system. Actual fiscal 2003 expenditures for the personnel could be somewhat lower due to the bill's October 1, 2002 effective date. Future year personnel expenditures would be greater due to salary increases.

Exhibit 1
Additional Personnel Needed to Establish Interagency Transition Teams

School System	<u>Pupil Personnel Workers</u>		<u>Special Ed Coordinators</u>		Total Annual Cost ²
	# Needed	Estimated Cost Per ¹	# Needed	Estimated Cost Per ¹	
Anne Arundel	1	\$90,312	1	\$106,296	\$196,608
Baltimore City	6	68,643	3	95,837	699,371
Baltimore County	2	76,569	1	103,842	256,981
Montgomery	1	108,384	1	118,453	226,837
Prince George's	2	89,995	1	89,610	269,600
Total	12		7		\$1,649,397

¹ Assumes 25% fringe benefits.

² Based on estimated fiscal 2003 costs.

It is assumed that local health departments and social service agencies could participate as needed in the coordination of services for students. Service costs could increase if all mandated services are provided to students under the jurisdiction of DJJ.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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