

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 870
Judiciary

(Delegate King, *et al.*)

Searches of Students - School-Sponsored Trips - Principal's Designee

This bill authorizes a public school principal's designee to make a reasonable search of a student on a school-sponsored trip. The searcher must have a reasonable belief that the student is carrying an item in violation of State law or in violation of a rule or regulation of the local board of education. The search must be made in the presence of a third party.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school systems could provide the proper training on when and how to conduct searches with existing local resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A principal, an assistant principal, or a school security guard of a public school may make a reasonable search of a student on school premises or on a school-sponsored trip. The searcher must have a reasonable belief that the student is carrying an item in violation of State law or in violation of a rule or regulation of the local board of education. The search must be made in the presence of a third party.

Local Fiscal Effect: Principals, assistant principals, and school security guards do not usually attend school-sponsored field trips, and other school personnel are not currently

authorized to conduct student searches. The bill would allow teachers or other designees to perform searches on field trips. It is assumed that any costs associated with training personnel to handle student searches appropriately would be minimal and absorbable within the existing budgets of the local boards of education.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2003
mdf/hlb

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