

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1167
Ways and Means

(Delegate Owings)

Education - Textbooks and Other Resources - Requirements

This bill provides that textbooks and other instructional resources purchased by a local board of education or recommended for purchase by a local school superintendent must conform to the requirements established by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill impacts local systems.

Local Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practices in local school systems.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each local superintendent of schools must prepare a list of textbooks, instructional materials, visual and auditory aids, and school supplies and equipment that are needed by public schools in the district. The superintendent must recommend that the local board of education purchase and distribute these items. Local boards adopt procedures for the selection and purchase of necessary items. Local superintendents and boards are not required under State law to recommend or purchase specific items.

Background: The federal No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law in January 2002 with a wide range of requirements that local school systems must follow in order to secure federal education funds. One of the mandates established in the legislation requires public schools to use scientifically-proven instructional methods and textbooks

that are aligned with state standards. According to the U.S. Department of Education, this provision was included in the Act to ensure that federal funds only support educational practices that have been shown to improve student performance.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local school systems have already begun making purchasing decisions based on the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. Therefore, the bill codifies current practice and has no impact on local school finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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