

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 218
Ways and Means

(Delegate Edwards)

Education - Public Schools - Extracurricular Activities - Home-Schooled
Students

This bill authorizes public schools to allow home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular school activities, including interscholastic athletics, music or drama programs, student organizations, and other programs sponsored by the school. To qualify, a home-schooled student must participate in home instruction under written agreement with the local superintendent and must be eligible to attend the public school. The public school must give priority to a student who attends the school if the number of students who may participate in the extracurricular activity is limited.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Allowing home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities would not materially affect local expenditures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Public schools are not statutorily authorized to allow home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by public schools.

Background: There are approximately 19,400 home-schooled students in Maryland, accounting for approximately 1.9% of all kindergarten to grade 12 students in the State.

Based on an August 1, 2001 report from the U.S. Department of Education, this is slightly higher than the percentage of children ages 5 through 17 who are home-schooled nationwide.

Some school districts across the country have established centers where 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-schooled students to attend public school part-time, and about 18% of home-schooled students exercise this privilege. In addition, approximately 11% of home-schooled students use books or materials from a public school, and 8% use public school curriculums. Approximately 6% of home-schooled students participate in extracurricular activities provided by public schools or school districts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar bills that applied to both home-schooled students and private school students were introduced in the last two legislative sessions. HB 1088 of 2002 was not reported out of the House Ways and Means Committee, and HB 1072 of 2001 received an unfavorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

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ncs/hlb

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