

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1169  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Owings)

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**Education - School Curriculum and Health Services - Parental Consent**

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This bill requires a local school system to obtain informed written consent from the parent or guardian of a student who wishes to enroll in a sex education course. The bill also prohibits a local school system from providing health services to a student without the informed written consent of the student's parent or guardian. Finally, the bill prohibits a local board of education from adopting curricula or courses of study that promote the distribution of contraceptives.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would impact local school systems.

**Local Effect:** Although the bill would increase the administrative workload of schools and school systems, it is assumed that the additional work could be handled with existing resources in most schools.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Local boards of education adopt curriculum requirements for the schools in their districts with the advice of local superintendents of schools and within guidelines established by the State Board of Education. Local boards of education are required to provide adequate school health services, instruction in health education, and healthful school environments. The Maryland State Department of Education and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must jointly develop standards and guidelines for school

health programs and offer assistance to local boards of education as they implement the programs.

Informed written parental consent is not required for a student who enrolls in a sex education class; however, a student whose parent or guardian provides a written objection to the course is excused from the course.

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### **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 14, 2003  
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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510