

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 174

(Senator Klausmeier, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Maryland School for the Blind - Notice to Parents or Guardians of Availability of Programs

This bill requires local boards of education to notify the parents and guardians of blind or visually impaired children, including children with multiple disabilities, of the availability of the educational programs offered by the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The cost of any additional materials MSB would print and distribute could be absorbed within the existing budget of MSB.

Local Effect: Local boards of education could provide notification of MSB with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Local boards of education are not required to notify the parents and guardians of blind and visually impaired students of the educational programs at MSB.

Background: MSB was established in 1853 and is a private, nonprofit school serving blind students, visually impaired students, and students with multiple disabilities from

Maryland's local school systems. Its mission is to educate children for functional independence. The proposed fiscal 2005 appropriation for MSB is \$14.2 million, an increase of just over \$500,000 from fiscal 2004. Local school systems that send students to MSB also pay a local share. The *Fiscal 2005 Maryland Operating Budget Book* reports an estimated 115 students in the MSB residential program and 65 students in the MSB day program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 741 (Delegate C. Davis, *et al.*) – Ways and Means.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2004
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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