

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 806 (Senator Britt, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Suspended or Expelled Students - Community Resources List

This bill requires each local board of education to develop a community resources list and distribute the list to the local public schools in its jurisdiction. A list must be given to each suspended or expelled student or the student's parent or guardian. If a student with a disability is being considered for suspension or expulsion, the student or the student's parent or guardian must be given a list attached to the procedural safeguards notice required by State regulations. Community resource lists may include the names and contact information for local and statewide social services and nonprofit health care providers that offer nondiscriminatory services to children and families in need of assistance.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school systems could develop and disseminate community resource lists with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

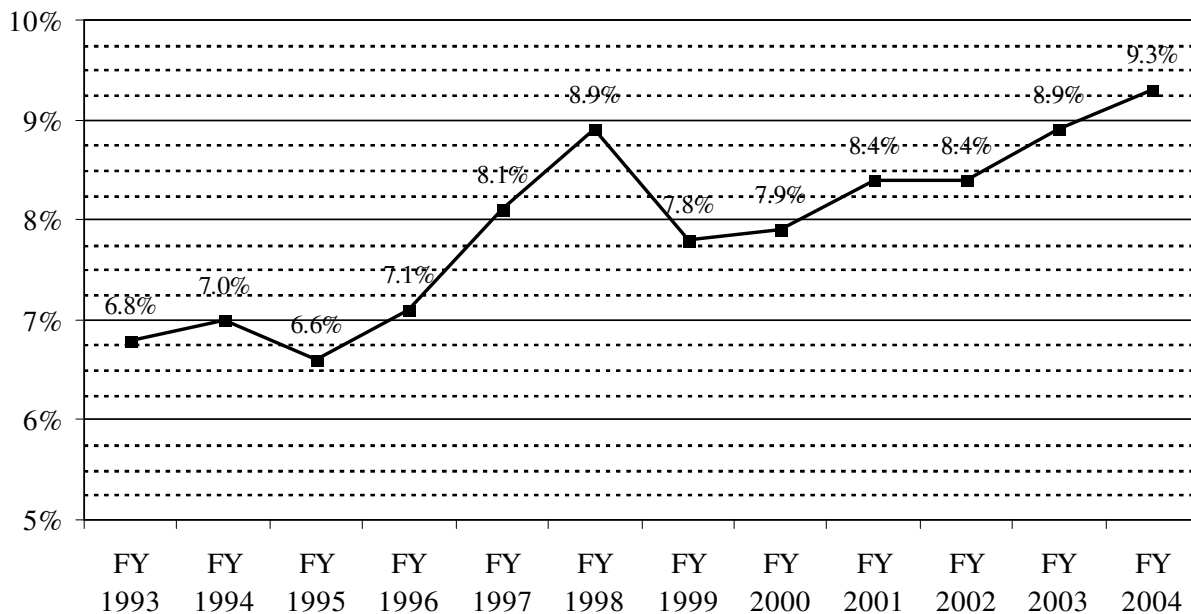
Analysis

Current Law: A principal may suspend a student for up to 10 days, and the principal may request that the local superintendent of schools suspend a student for more than 10 days or expel a student.

The discipline of a student with a disability must be conducted in a manner that complies with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. On the date a principal decides to remove a student with a disability for a violation of school rules, the principal must notify the student’s parent or guardian and provide the parent or guardian with the procedural safeguards notice.

Background: The preamble to the bill notes that student suspensions and expulsions are increasing in Maryland. The 12-year trend in student suspensions is shown in **Exhibit 1**. The exhibit indicates that the suspension rate has increased steadily over the last six years and reached a high point for the time period in the 2003-2004 school year. The preamble also reports that a disproportionate share of African Americans are suspended and expelled. According to data from the Maryland State Department of Education, African Americans accounted for 38% of the student population and 60% of student suspensions in the 2003-2004 school year.

Exhibit 1
Percentage of Students Suspended from Maryland Public Schools
Fiscal 1993 to 2004



Source: Maryland State Department of Education

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1074 (Delegate Kaiser, *et al.*) – Ways and Means.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2005
ncs/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 4, 2005

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

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