

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 40 (Delegate Benson)
Ways and Means

Education - Public Schools - Parent or Guardian Contact Information

This bill requires the parent or guardian of a public school student to provide the school with the proper contact information for the parent or guardian, including name, home address, home telephone number, and an alternative telephone number. Failure to provide and maintain the proper contact information is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$50 upon conviction. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues could increase due to the bill's penalty provisions. If each year the parents of approximately 1% of the State's public school students are convicted with \$50 fines, revenues would increase by an estimated \$425,000 annually beginning in FY 2007. Without relatively strict enforcement, it is unlikely this revenue level would be realized. MSDE could adopt regulations with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local school systems are not required to enforce the bill. If a system elects to aid in the enforcement of the requirement, it is assumed the effort would be undertaken with existing personnel and resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: According to the *Maryland Student Records System Manual 2005*, local school systems and public schools are responsible for obtaining accurate and current

information for each student, including a parent's or guardian's name, a home address, and a working phone number for the student's parent or guardian.

State Revenues: There are approximately 850,000 students who attend public schools in Maryland each year. If the parents of 1% of these students fail to maintain accurate contact information with the public schools their children attend, approximately 8,500 parents could be fined \$50, resulting in up to \$425,000 in general fund revenues. Unless enforcement of the bill is relatively strict, however, it is unlikely this level of revenue would be attained.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill does not require local school systems to enforce the requirement that students' parents and guardians maintain accurate contact information. In order for the bill to be effective, however, school systems would have to inform officials of the individuals who have not complied with the requirements. It is assumed that this would be done at the discretion of the local school system with existing personnel and resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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