

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 613
Ways and Means

(Delegate Healey, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Public Schools - School Health Services Program Coordinator

This bill requires each local board of education to designate a school health services program coordinator to (1) implement State and local health policies in the public schools; (2) ensure that public schools adhere to local health guidelines; and (3) communicate health policies to the parents and guardians of public school students. A local board may authorize the local health department to designate the school health services program coordinator. The health coordinators must also ensure that schools adhere to State guidelines for protecting students from overexposure to the sun. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must conduct at least two meetings annually with all of the coordinators.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies current practice at the State level.

Local Effect: Any additional responsibilities for school health directors could be performed with existing personnel and resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the assistance of the local health department, each local board of education must provide adequate school health services, instruction in health education, and a healthful school environment. MSDE and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must jointly develop standards and guidelines for school health programs and

offer to help local boards of education and local health departments in their implementation.

Background: The Maryland State School Health Services Guidelines include guidelines for protecting students and staff from overexposure to the sun. The guidelines recommend that school nurses develop policies that allow students to use the sunscreen they bring to school.

State Fiscal Effect: Local school health directors currently meet with the school health services personnel from MSDE four times per year.

Local Fiscal Effect: Every local school system has a school health director, although some are budgeted through the local health department and some are budgeted through the board of education. The responsibilities the bill assigns to school health services program coordinators are already being performed or could be performed with existing personnel and resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: As amended, HB 549 of 2005 was identical to this bill. The House passed the bill, but the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee reported the bill unfavorably.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City and Caroline, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Legislative Services

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n/rhh

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