

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 923
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Prince George's County - Long-Term Substitute Teachers - Educational
Requirements
PG 403-06**

This bill requires the Prince George's County Board of Education to establish educational requirements for substitute teachers who teach more than 30 days per school year in the county school system. By the beginning of the 2007 school year, these substitute teachers must have at least an associate's degree; by the beginning of the 2009 school year, they must have at least a bachelor's degree. A waiver may be granted from these requirements for substitutes with five years of teaching experience who sign an agreement with the board of education to complete the educational requirements. The county board of education must submit annual reports on the hours worked by substitute teachers and the rates paid to substitute teachers. The board must also establish a partnership with the Prince George's Community College to assist substitute teachers in seeking State scholarships and receiving credit for work experience and job performance.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County school expenditures could increase if the bill results in higher salaries paid to long-term substitutes. It is assumed that the required partnership between the county board of education and the Prince George's Community College could be formed and implemented with existing personnel and resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Local boards of education set requirements for the substitute teachers who teach in their school systems.

Background: Statewide, school systems spent \$117.8 million on substitute teachers in fiscal 2004. This was 3.8% of total spending in the instructional salaries category.

Exhibit 1 compares spending for substitute teachers in Prince George's County to spending in neighboring jurisdictions. The exhibit shows that Prince George's County spent a greater percentage of its instructional salaries budget on substitutes, suggesting that the school system relies more on substitutes than other jurisdictions.

Exhibit 1
Spending for Substitute Teachers
as a Percentage of Total Instructional Salaries
Fiscal 2004
(\$ in Millions)

<u>School System</u>	<u>Substitute Teachers</u>	<u>Total Instructional Salaries</u>	<u>% of Total Instructional Salaries</u>
<i>Prince George's</i>	\$27.4	\$440.5	6.2%
Anne Arundel	\$7.5	\$244.5	3.1%
Charles	1.9	83.8	2.3%
Montgomery	14.5	656.6	2.2%
Howard	3.8	192.2	2.0%
Calvert	1.0	62.2	1.5%
State	\$117.8	\$3,129.2	3.8%

Source: *Selected Financial Data*, Maryland State Department of Education

Local Fiscal Effect: Raising the professional standards of substitute teachers could increase compensation for the teachers. In fiscal 2004, Prince George's County schools spent \$27.4 million on substitute teachers. Even a relatively minor increase in the salaries of substitutes could increase school system spending significantly. It is assumed that the board of education could submit the required annual reports on substitute teachers with existing resources.

Furthermore, it is assumed that the county board of education and community college could develop and implement the required partnership with existing personnel and resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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