

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 954 (Delegate McKee)
Ways and Means

Education - Number of School Days and School Hours - Increase

This bill increases the required number of school days and school hours for public schools. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year and continuing for the next two school years, 10 days and 60 hours are added in each year to the school calendar. By the 2009-2010 school year, students must attend school for 210 days and 1,260 total hours.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not impact State aid to local school systems.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures would increase by an estimated \$449 million in FY 2008 to pay for 10 additional days of school services. Expenditure increases would grow to an estimated \$924 million in FY 2008 and \$1.4 billion in FY 2010. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Each public school must be open for at least 180 actual school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10-month school year. State Board of Education regulations require high schools to be open at least 1,170 hours during the 180-day school year.

Background: According to information from the Education Commission of the States, Maryland has school day requirements that are similar to neighboring states and Maryland's required school hours exceed those of nearby states that have school hour requirements. School hour and school day requirements for selected states are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Required School Days and School Hours for Selected States

<u>State</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
Delaware	Kindergarten: 440 hours; Grades 1-11: 1,060 hours; Grade 12: 1,032 hours
Washington, DC	180 days
New Jersey	180 days
North Carolina	180 days; 1,000 hours
Pennsylvania	180 days; Kindergarten: 450 hours; Grades 1-6: 900 hours; Grades 7-12: 990 hours
Virginia	180 days; Kindergarten: 540 hours; Grades 1-12: 990 hours
West Virginia	180 days

Source: Education Commission of the States

Local Expenditures: Local school expenditures will increase by an estimated \$449 million in fiscal 2008 to pay for an additional 10 days of classes for students. This estimate is based on the following information and assumptions.

- In fiscal 2004, local school systems spent:
 - \$4.2 billion on instructional personnel, supplies, and equipment;
 - \$1.2 billion on special education;
 - \$741 million on plant maintenance and operations;
 - \$428 million on student transportation;
 - \$60 million on student personnel services; and
 - \$47 million on health services.

- Growth of 5% per year is assumed through fiscal 2008, increasing expenditures in these categories from \$6.6 billion in fiscal 2004 to an estimated \$8.1 billion in fiscal 2008.
- Adding 10 days to the school calendar represents a 5.5% increase in the number of school days. It is assumed that the expenditure categories discussed above will increase accordingly.
- The projected increase assumes no increase in administrative costs because administrative personnel already have 12-month contracts. Likewise, capital outlay and community services costs would not be affected.
- It is assumed that additional food services costs would be offset by increased revenues for school food service funds.

With further increases to the minimum school day requirements in fiscal 2009 and 2010, local school expenditures will increase by an estimated \$924 million in fiscal 2009 and \$1.4 billion in fiscal 2010. With no further increases to the length of the school year after fiscal 2010, future expenditure increases will reflect inflation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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mll/rhh

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