

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 768
Ways and Means

(Delegate McKee)

Education - Lunch Periods

This bill requires public schools in Washington County to provide students with lunch periods of at least one hour each school day.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Washington County school expenditures could increase if the bill results in a longer school day for teachers or the hours for cafeteria staff are extended.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Schools and school systems determine lunch hours. Federal regulations require lunches to be served between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in order to qualify for federal subsidies.

Background: The bill responds to concerns raised by high school students in Washington County, who claim they have to wait in line for 25 minutes to get food. With a 30 minute lunch period, this does not give them sufficient time to eat their meals. The Maryland State Department of Education reports that the typical lunch period in Maryland schools is 30 minutes.

Local Expenditures: If extending the lunch periods in Washington County public schools results in a longer school day, the contract with the local teachers' union may have to be modified. The bill could also result in longer work hours for school cafeteria staff. Either of these effects could result in additional expenditures for the county school system. If lunch periods can be extended without affecting work hours for teachers and cafeteria staff, the bill will not have a significant impact on school finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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