

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 820 (Senator Britt)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Prince George's County Board of Education - Repeal of Requirement for a Comprehensive Review

This bill repeals the requirement that a consultant conduct a comprehensive review of the Prince George's County public school system and the Prince George's County Board of Education that was established in 2002.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would decrease by \$565,000 in FY 2007 to eliminate the comprehensive review requirement. Funds for the review are in the FY 2007 State budget for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	(565,000)	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$565,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Local school expenditures for the Prince George's County Board of Education would decrease by approximately \$565,000 in FY 2007 or 2008 due to the repeal of the comprehensive review requirement.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The New Prince George's County Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must jointly select a consultant to do a comprehensive review of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and must share equally in the cost of the review. The review must be complete by June 1, 2007 and must evaluate both the educational and management reforms made by the appointed board of education that was established in 2002. The Prince George's County Board of Education and the State Board of Education must review the findings of the study and conduct four public hearings throughout Prince George's County. By September 1, 2007, the county board and State board must report the results of the review and the public hearings, and must propose any changes in the management structure and level of funding for PGCPS.

Background: Chapter 289 of 2002 disbanded the elected Prince George's County Board of Education operating at the time and reorganized the PGCPS governance structure under a new board appointed jointly by the Governor and the county executive. When the legislation was enacted, PGCPS was working to accomplish nearly 300 broad recommendations made in a performance audit mandated by the General Assembly. The system was also struggling with conflicts among board of education members and between board members and the local superintendent of schools. Following the November 2006 general election, the board of education reverted to an elected board.

Although there is funding in the fiscal 2007 State budget for the State's share of the PGCPS comprehensive review cost, MSDE and the Prince George's County Board of Education have not contracted with a consultant to conduct the review.

State Expenditures: The fiscal 2007 State budget includes \$565,000 for the comprehensive review of PGCPS. This bill would eliminate the review requirement, thus reducing general fund expenditures by \$565,000.

Local Expenditures: PGCPS must split the cost of the required review with the State. Eliminating the review, therefore, would reduce PGCPS expenditures by approximately \$565,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: In its original form, SB 900 of 2005 would have eliminated the comprehensive review of PGCPS. The bill was amended to instead delay the review for one year and was enacted as Chapter 344 of 2005.

Cross File: HB 1205 (Delegate Ross) – Ways and Means.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2007
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