

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 183 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Education)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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

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

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. No funds were appropriated in the FY 2008 State budget for the State share of the cost of the mandated review.

**Local Effect:** None. No funds were included in the FY 2008 Prince George's County Public Schools budget for the local share of the cost of the mandated review.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland State Department of Education has determined that the bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The New Prince George's County Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must jointly select and pay for a consultant to do a comprehensive review of Prince George's County Public Schools and must share

equally in the cost of the review. The review was to have been completed by June 1, 2007 and was to have evaluated both the educational and management reforms made by the appointed board of education that was established in 2002 and expired in 2006.

**Background:** Chapter 289 of 2002 eliminated the then-existing Board of Education of Prince George's County and established a New Prince George's County Board of Education. The new board, which took office June 1, 2002, consisted of nine voting members jointly appointed by the county executive and the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the State Board of Education.

Chapter 289 also required the CEO to select and establish salaries for a Chief Academic Officer (CAO), a CFO, and a Chief Accountability Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools. The selection of officers and establishment of officers' salaries were subject to the approval of the new board. The CAO and the chief accountability officer positions expired on June 30, 2006, but the CFO position remains in effect.

On December 3, 2006, the terms of the members of the new board expired, and they were replaced the following day by an elected board consisting of nine members and one student member.

Senate Bill 856 of 2002 (the Bridge to Excellence Act) requires each local school system to develop and implement a comprehensive five-year master plan to improve student achievement and management efficiencies. The master plans are subject to approval by the State Board of Education and must be updated annually. Senate Bill 856 also requires an independent evaluation of the effect of increased State aid on student and school performance, which is currently being conducted by MGT of America. An interim report was presented to the General Assembly in 2007, and the final report is due in 2008.

**State Fiscal Effect:** MSDE's fiscal 2007 appropriation included \$565,000 in general funds to pay the State's share of the cost of the mandated review. As the review did not begin in fiscal 2007, MSDE reallocated \$344,513 to fund a contract modification for MGT of America, the contractor responsible for the State-mandated evaluation of the effects of the Bridge to Excellence Act. The contract modification included an additional interim report in 2007 mandated in Senate Bill 907 of 2007 at a cost of approximately \$211,500.

The fiscal 2008 MSDE appropriation did not include any additional funds for the State's share of the cost of the mandated review.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1205 of 2007 received an unfavorable report by the House Ways and Means Committee but was incorporated into HB 1239, a larger bill. HB 1239 passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor due to a lack of constitutional sufficiency unrelated to the repeal of the comprehensive review.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 2008  
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