

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 897
Ways and Means

(Delegate McConkey, *et al.*)

Public Schools - Office Discipline Referrals - Accountability Policy

This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop a model policy for accounting for all office discipline referrals in consultation with local school systems. Using the State board's model policy, which must be developed by March 31, 2010, local boards of education must establish policies accounting for all office discipline referrals by July 1, 2010.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of Education can develop a model policy and collect local policies with existing personnel and resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures increase minimally in FY 2010 to consult with students, the parents and guardians of students, school personnel, school volunteers, and members of the community to develop office discipline referral policies. Minimal administrative expenditures continue after FY 2010 to implement the policy. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In addition to a statement requiring accountability in the process for reporting office discipline referrals, the model policy developed by the State Board of Education must include procedures that account for and track each office discipline

referral submitted to the school administration. The model policy also has to include procedures for the prompt investigation of each office discipline referral.

Policies established by local boards of education must be developed in consultation with students, the parents and guardians of students, school personnel, school volunteers, and members of the community. Each policy must include the components from the State board's model policy. Information on the procedure for accounting for each office discipline referral must include the name and contact information for a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) employee who is familiar with that school system's discipline accounting procedure.

Current Law: Each local board of education must adopt regulations designed to create and maintain within the schools under its jurisdiction an atmosphere of order and discipline necessary for effective learning. There are no uniform policies on office discipline referrals.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that the bill implies development of an automated system to collect office discipline referrals. If so, MSDE estimates a cost of at least \$500,000 for the student information system to be re-programmed and school level staff to be retrained.

Local Expenditures: Local school administrative expenditures may increase minimally to consult with students, the parents and guardians of students, school personnel, school volunteers, and members of the community to develop office discipline referral policies. Ongoing local school system expenditures depend on the model policy adopted by the State board, local policies, and local implementation decisions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 409 (Senator Simonaire) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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mcp/mwc

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