

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1507
Ways and Means

(Delegates Eckardt and Haddaway)

Dorchester County - Board of Education - Benefits

This bill entitles elected members of the Dorchester County Board of Education to health insurance and other fringe benefits regularly provided to board employees. Participation in a board-sponsored benefits program may not be considered compensation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local education expenditures in Dorchester County may increase by a maximum of \$30,600 to \$69,100 annually. The actual impact depends on the number of board members who take advantage of the benefits and what type of health insurance a board member chooses. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Dorchester County Board of Education consists of five elected members who serve four-year terms, as well as nonvoting student members from each of the (currently two) county's high schools who are elected by county public high school students and serve one-year terms. The board must meet at least once per month. Each voting member is entitled to annual compensation as set by the county council, but the salary of each voting member must be at least \$3,200, except the president whose salary must be at least \$3,600.

Local Expenditures: The local board of education advises that the cost for health insurance coverage ranges from \$6,112 for an individual to \$13,814 for family coverage. The cost to provide health insurance coverage for all five voting board members would range from \$30,560 if each board member selects the individual plan to \$69,070 if each board member selects the family coverage plan. These additional costs may be lower if a board member opts out of coverage through the board because of existing coverage through another employer, or for other reasons. Further, a board member may already be entitled to health insurance through the board as a result of prior employment. The school board advises that entitlement to fringe benefits other than health insurance will not result in substantial expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 330 (Senator Colburn) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2009
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