

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1008 (Delegates Conaway and Anderson)  
 Ways and Means

Education - Baltimore City - Public and Private Schools - Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Courses

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and private schools in Baltimore City to develop mandatory courses on criminal law and criminal procedure to be implemented during middle school or an equivalent age-appropriate grade level.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures will increase by \$288,900 in FY 2013 and by \$319,800 in FY 2014. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	0	0	288,900	319,800
Net Effect	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$288,900)	(\$319,800)

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

**Local Effect:** Baltimore City school expenditures will increase by an estimated \$2.3 million in FY 2011 to implement mandatory criminal law and criminal procedure courses in all middle schools. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. Private school expenditures will increase to implement mandatory criminal law and criminal procedure courses.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by the State Board of Education, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction.

**Background:** The Maryland State Department of Education advises that criminal law and procedure is not part of the voluntary State curriculum for middle schools. However, the voluntary State curriculum for government at the high school level does include civil and criminal law, and students are tested on civil and criminal law in the government high school assessment. MSDE also advises that all school systems in Maryland offer elective criminal law courses.

**State Expenditures:** Teachers' retirement cost for local school systems are paid entirely by the State government. Pursuant to this legislation, teacher salaries will increase by \$1.7 million beginning in fiscal 2011. This will affect State paid teachers' retirement cost beginning in fiscal 2013. Assuming a retirement contribution rate of 16.51% in fiscal 2013 and 17.84% in fiscal 2014, State general fund expenditures will increase by \$288,900 in fiscal 2013 and \$319,800 in fiscal 2014.

**Local Expenditures:** Baltimore City school expenditures could increase by an estimated \$2.3 million in fiscal 2011 to hire teachers qualified to teach mandatory criminal law and criminal procedure courses (\$2.04 million) and to purchase textbooks and materials needed for the courses (\$232,000). The information and assumptions used to develop this estimate are stated below.

- The mandatory courses would be developed in the 2009-2010 school year and would be taught beginning in the 2010-2011 school year.
- There are approximately 17,500 students in grades 4 through 6 in Baltimore City public schools in fiscal 2009 (an average of 5,835 per grade), so in fiscal 2011, approximately 5,835 middle school grade students would receive the required instruction.
- It is estimated that each teacher would have approximately 200 students per year. This assumes that the criminal law and procedure courses would be one semester long and that a teacher could teach approximately four classes of 25 students or five classes of 20 students per semester. In total, 29 new teachers would be needed.

- The average cost per teacher for salary and benefits is estimated at \$70,400. The total cost for 29 teachers would be approximately \$2.04 million.
- Enough textbooks and other course materials would be needed for 2,900 students each semester. The materials would cost an estimated \$80 per student, or \$232,000 in total.

After fiscal 2011, costs for textbooks and course materials could decrease if the same materials are reused. To the extent that existing teachers are qualified to teach criminal law and procedure, costs for teachers could be somewhat less than \$2.04 million. Additional school system costs could also be incurred for curriculum development and support.

**Small Business Effect:** Like public schools, private schools in Baltimore City would be required to implement criminal law and procedure courses for all middle school students. In Baltimore City, there are approximately 2,250 private school students in grades 4 through 6 in Baltimore City public schools in fiscal 2009 (an average of 750 per grade), so in fiscal 2011, approximately 750 middle school grade students would receive the required instruction. Using the same assumptions described above for Baltimore City public schools, private school costs would increase by an estimated \$311,500 in fiscal 2011.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 299 of 2008 received an unfavorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2009  
ncs/mwc

---

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510