

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1049
Ways and Means

(Delegate Alston)

**Elementary and Secondary Education - County-Supervised Home Instruction -
High School Diploma**

This bill allows an individual who received home instruction under supervision of a local board of education to apply to the local board to obtain a high school diploma, if the individual has completed State requirements for a home instruction program. The bill requires a local board of education to award a high school diploma to those individuals under board supervision who meet home instruction requirements in accordance with regulations of the State Board of Education. A local board of education must adopt rules and regulations to establish procedures for awarding the diplomas.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The cost to local boards of education to receive applications for, and award, diplomas to a limited number of additional students, and to adopt required rules and regulations will be minimal. The bill does not alter the supervisory role of local school systems with respect to home instruction. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Maryland Public Schools

The promotion of students in a public school and graduation from a public high school must be in accordance with local school board policies and rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. Each student who graduates from a public high school receives the same type of diploma or certificate, regardless of the high school attended or the course taken. The diploma or certificate must state that the student has completed a program of studies satisfactorily in accordance with the requirements of the State Board of Education.

Home Instruction

The Maryland Code of Regulations (COMAR 13A.10.01) establishes a procedure to be used by local school systems to determine if a child participating in a home instruction program is receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age. The home instruction program must:

- include instruction in English, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, and physical education; and
- take place on a regular basis during the school year and be of sufficient duration to implement the instruction program.

Supervision from the local school board includes review of educational materials at the conclusion of each local school system semester. Also, not more than three times during a school year, a local school system representative must be permitted to not only review educational materials, but also to discuss the instructional program and observe instruction that is provided. A local school system may not impose requirements for the home instruction of those students under the school system's supervision beyond those specified in COMAR 13A.10.01.

Students may also receive home instruction under the supervision of a State certified nonpublic school or under the supervision of certain schools or organizations operated by a bona fide church organization.

Background: According to the Maryland State Department of Education, over 22,000 students in Maryland were taught through home instruction during the 2010-2011 school year, ranging from 49 students in Somerset County to 2,488 in Baltimore County. About

10,700, or 48%, of these students were home schooled under supervision of a local board of education. **Exhibit 1** shows the number of students receiving home instruction, by county.

Exhibit 1
Students Receiving Home Instruction
2010-2011 School Year

County	Students
Allegany	208
Anne Arundel	1,863
Baltimore City	1,005
Baltimore	2,488
Calvert	389
Caroline	163
Carroll	1,277
Cecil	1,097
Charles	1,363
Dorchester	85
Frederick	2,305
Garrett	342
Harford	1,401
Howard	1,188
Kent	61
Montgomery	2,418
Prince George's	2,147
Queen Anne's	267
St. Mary's	668
Somerset	49
Talbot	77
Washington	754
Wicomico	380
Worcester	115
Total	22,110

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2012
mlm/mwc

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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