

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 54 (Delegate Conaway)
Ways and Means

Baltimore City Public Schools - Health and Safety - Video Cameras

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to install and maintain at least two operational video cameras on the exterior premises of each Baltimore City public school for the purpose of recording illegal activity. Recordings made by the cameras must be preserved for at least six months. The board must adopt regulations to carry out the requirements of the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures increase by approximately \$1.5 million in FY 2018 to procure video equipment and other supplies to implement the bill's requirements. In subsequent years, Baltimore City expenditures increase by approximately \$115,900 annually for ongoing maintenance of new equipment. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) does not track the number of school buildings in the State that have video surveillance systems. For those school buildings that do not have cameras installed, MSDE estimates the cost for a two-camera system to range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per site. This estimate does not include installation, technical assistance, maintenance, or professional development costs.

MSDE indicates that the bill applies to 183 public schools within the Baltimore City Public School System.

Local Expenditures: Although some public schools in Baltimore City currently have video cameras, the public school system indicates that most do not have the necessary high-pixel resolution necessary to properly record and review illegal activity. In addition, currently no public school in the city has the equipment necessary to maintain six months of video recordings and each public school will need to maintain at least 16 terabytes of storage to satisfy the bill's video preservation requirements. A final issue is that many public schools will need new cabling to accommodate the required video recording systems.

Based on these factors, Baltimore City expenditures will increase by approximately \$1.5 million in fiscal 2018 to procure 366 high-definition video cameras. In subsequent years, Baltimore City expenditures will increase by approximately \$115,900 for contractual services related to ongoing maintenance and replacement costs for the new equipment. This estimate is based on the following facts and assumptions:

- 183 public school buildings in Baltimore City;
- two video cameras at each public school building;
- one recording device at each public school building capable of storing six months of recordings as well as one additional monitor per building; and
- \$1,500 cost for each video camera, \$5,200 cost for each recording device, and \$250 for each monitor unit.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Maryland State Department of Education; Public School Construction Program; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/hlb

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