

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 211 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Ways and Means

**Prince George's County Board of Education - Teachers and Administrators -
Child Protective Services Investigation Findings
PG 510-18**

This bill requires the Prince George's County Public School System to accept (for purposes of employment or work assignment) a final finding made by Child Protective Services resulting from an investigation of a teacher or an administrator for the alleged abuse or neglect of a public school student. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Prince George's County Board of Education finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

State Law Regarding Child Abuse or Neglect

After receiving a report of suspected abuse or neglect of a child who lives in Maryland that is alleged to have occurred in the State, the local department of social services and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency must promptly investigate the report to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the child or children.

Within 24 hours after receiving a report of suspected physical or sexual child abuse, and within five days after receiving a report of suspected child neglect or mental injury, the local department or law enforcement agency must (1) see the child; (2) attempt to have an on-site interview with the child's caretaker; (3) decide on the safety of the child and of other children in the household; and (4) decide on the safety of the other children in the care or custody of the alleged abuser.

The determinations and assessments that are required during an abuse or neglect investigation are specified in statute. Reports of child abuse and neglect may also be referred for an alternative response in specified circumstances. An alternative response does not include an investigation or a formal determination as to whether child abuse or neglect has occurred.

Recent Alleged Misconduct in Prince George's County

Based on recent reports, approximately 850 employees (including 400 teachers) were placed on leave during the 2016-17 school year for alleged misconduct related to abuse and neglect of students. However, that number had fallen to about 40 employees as of October 2017. Prince George's County Public Schools advises that it has invested additional resources into preventing abuse and neglect in recent years. For example, the school system has hired additional security and has added more training and electronic tracking/monitoring systems.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/hlb

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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