

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 465

(Senator King, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Nonpublic Schools - Fire Drill Requirements - State Fire Prevention Code

This bill requires each nonpublic school in the State to (1) hold fire drills in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code; (2) keep records of each fire drill; and (3) send a copy of the records to the State Board of Education. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland State Department of Education and the Department of State Police (DSP) can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None. The bill pertains only to nonpublic schools.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 176 of 2017 requires the State Superintendent to require each county superintendent to hold a fire drill in each public school in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code. The State Fire Prevention Commission within DSP must adopt comprehensive regulations as a State Fire Prevention Code. The commission adopted by reference, subject to some exceptions noted in the regulations, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code (2015 Edition), the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2015 Edition), and some requirements of the International Building Code as the State Fire Prevention Code.

With regard to educational facilities, the code requires those with automatic sprinkler systems to hold five fire drills per year, with at least two occurring in the first four months of the school year. Educational facilities that are not fully protected by automatic sprinkler systems must hold eight fire drills annually, with at least three scheduled in the first four months of the school year. In both cases, one fire drill must be conducted in the first 30 days of operation, except for educational buildings that are open on a year-round basis. All occupants in the building must participate in a fire drill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1186 (Delegate Ebersole) - Ways and Means.

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

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sb/rhh
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