

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 909 (Senator Salling)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
 and Budget and Taxation

Education - Summer Sports Program - Established

This bill establishes a Summer Sports Program, intended to provide funding to county boards of education to establish programs providing students with opportunities during the summer for physical activity and sports at public schools that have adequate facilities on location. Beginning in fiscal 2022, the Governor must provide \$700,000 to the program and each county must provide \$300,000 to the local board of education for the program. Each year, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must direct the State funding to local boards of education, taking into account the number of students served, the number of schools with adequate facilities, and the relative wealth of the geographic area. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$700,000 annually beginning in FY 2022. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2022.**

(in dollars)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$700,000)	(\$700,000)	(\$700,000)	(\$700,000)

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

Local Effect: Beginning in FY 2022, expenditures for each county government increase annually by as much as \$300,000. Revenues and expenditures for local boards of education increase in equal amounts, depending upon the amount of increased funding from both the State and county government. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Small businesses that operate summer camps and programs may be adversely affected.

Analysis

Current Law:

Interscholastic Athletics

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), as established by the State Superintendent of Schools, governs the athletic program for all high school students in Maryland public secondary schools that are members of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA.) Local school systems may adopt rules governing their athletic programs that are more restrictive than those of MPSSAA; less restrictive rules may not be adopted. COMAR limits public school interscholastic athletic participation, including practice time, to defined seasons.

Corollary Athletic Program

COMAR authorizes a Corollary Athletic Program in the local school systems to provide athletic opportunities so that every student in public schools may have an equal opportunity to access the benefits of education-based athletic programs. A Corollary Athletic Program is not governed by the requirements related to MPSSAA and public school physical education programs, and is specifically designed to combine groups of students with and without disabilities together in physical activity.

Youth Sports Programs

Youth sports programs are programs organized for recreational athletic competition or instruction for participants who are under the age of 19 years. A “youth athlete” is an individual who participates in an athletic activity in association with a youth sports program conducted at a public school facility or by a recreational athletic organization.

Background: MPSSAA operates in conjunction with MSDE and the 24 local school systems to provide interscholastic participation opportunities to more than 112,000 student-athletes at 199 public high schools. The fall MPSSAA season, including practice, begins in mid-August each year and the spring season, including tournament play, ends near the end of May each year.

Montgomery County advises that it spends an estimated \$150,000 annually through its Department of Recreation to offer summer youth sports activities. Worcester County

advises that it provides funds for summer youth programs and that nonprofit organization funding supports participation of students whose families cannot afford the costs associated with recreation programs.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$700,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2022, consistent with mandated appropriations under the bill. It is assumed that with existing resources MSDE can devise a funding formula for determining the distribution of the \$700,000 each year, likely based upon relative per pupil wealth and enrollment, similar to wealth equalization that is used for existing major education funding formulas. It is further assumed that MSDE can adopt any necessary regulations using existing resources.

Local Fiscal Effect: Beginning in fiscal 2022, local school boards statewide receive \$700,000 annually in State revenues for summer sports programming. The distribution of this \$700,000 among counties will depend upon MSDE's allocations, which must take into account the number of students served, the number of schools with adequate facilities, and the relative wealth of the geographic area.

Beginning in fiscal 2022, expenditures for each county government increase annually by as much as \$300,000. However, to the extent that a county already supports summer sports programs in annual budgets, either via recreation departments (such as Montgomery County) or otherwise, and to the extent that these funds either support or can be shifted to programs that comply with the bill, some portion of the \$300,000 funding requirement under the bill will not constitute *additional* annual costs to the county.

Revenues and expenditures for local boards of education increase in equal amounts, depending upon the amount of increased funding from both the State and county government.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Howard County; Prince George's County; Wicomico County; Worcester County; Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

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