

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 277

(Delegate Patterson, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Public Schools - Purple Star Schools Program - Establishment

This bill establishes the Purple Star Schools Program administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to recognize public schools that provide strong services and support for military-connected students and their families when students transfer schools as a result of a parent or guardian’s military service. To qualify as a Purple Star School, a public school must meet criteria adopted by MSDE. At a minimum, the criteria must require a school to designate a staff liaison to perform specified duties, create an easily accessible web page with pertinent resources, maintain a transition program led by students, and offer professional development for staff on issues related to military-connected students transferring to new schools. A public school may partner with the county board to fulfill MSDE’s criteria. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$35,100 in FY 2023 to hire one part-time contractual program specialist to establish the program at MSDE. Once established, MSDE can run the program with existing resources as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

| (in dollars) | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 |
|----------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenues | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GF Expenditure | 35,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Effect | (\$35,100) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

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

Local Effect: To the extent a school wishes to be recognized as a Purple Star School, expenditures may increase and operations may be affected to achieve such recognition. However, any expenditure increases or operational changes can be managed with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A staff member's duties when designated as military liaison include (1) identifying military-connected students who are newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled at the school; (2) serving as the point of contact between schools and newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military-connected students and families; (3) determining appropriate school services available to newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military-connected students; (4) assisting in coordinating relevant school programs; and (5) generally aiding with a military-connected student's transition to a new school.

The web page required for recognition as a Purple Star School must include information regarding (1) relocation, enrollment, registration, and transfer of records at the school; (2) academic planning; and (3) counseling and other support services.

Current Law: All schools in Maryland currently participate in the Military Interstate Children's Compact. The compact provides technical assistance to schools in areas such as transitions, enrollment, immunizations, placement and attendance, and graduation of military-connected students and describes the support and services recommended for them. Military facilities across the State have designated school liaison offices to help families with transitions and enrollment. All school systems have a person designated as the military point of contact who works with schools to ensure smooth transitions for military-connected children.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that the agency can establish the program, develop guidelines, create an application, provide customer support service, review applications, and develop regulations with existing staff. However, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that work needed to establish the program, including developing criteria, regulations, guidelines, forms, documents, and application process may necessitate additional support. Therefore, DLS advises that MSDE requires one part-time contractual position for the first fiscal year of program implementation, fiscal 2023. Once the program is set up, MSDE can likely run the program by reviewing applications, providing customer support service, and making awards with existing resources.

Accordingly, general fund administrative expenditures increase by \$35,050 in fiscal 2023, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay from the bill's July 1, 2022 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one *half-time* contractual education program specialist to establish the program. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Contractual Position | 0.5 |
| Salary and Fringe Benefits | \$28,104 |
| One-time Start-up Costs | 6,661 |
| Operating Expenses | <u>285</u> |
| Total FY 2023 Expenditures | \$35,050 |

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State’s implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 934 of 2021 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 782, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: SB 234 (Senator Jackson) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Military Department; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Prince George’s County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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