

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 593 (Delegate Guyton, *et al.*)  
 Ways and Means

**Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment**

This bill establishes the Lifesaver Schools Program to recognize public schools that provide health and safety training to students and school personnel. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must designate a public school as a Lifesaver School if the school applies and meets the criteria adopted by MSDE. The bill establishes minimum criteria for a Lifesaver School. A public school may partner with the local board of education to fulfill MSDE’s criteria to qualify as a Lifesaver School. MSDE must adopt regulations to implement the bill. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$38,000 in FY 2024 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 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	38,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$38,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

**Local Effect:** To the extent that a school wishes to be recognized as a Lifesaver School, local expenditures (including potentially those of local health departments that employ public school nurses) may increase and operations may be affected to achieve such recognition. However, any expenditures or operational changes are discretionary and can be managed with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** At a minimum, MSDE's criteria for a Lifesaver School must require a public school to:

- offer to students (1) evidence-based training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid and (2) a mental health wellness program or a peer mentoring program;
- offer other health and safety trainings to students and school personnel that lead to certifications;
- provide service hours to students for participating in health and safety activities;
- offer to school personnel as professional development a mental health wellness program or training on CPR or first aid; and
- establish on the school's website an easily accessible webpage that includes resources for a mental health wellness program or training on CPR or first aid.

**Current Law:** With the assistance of the local health department (LHD), each local board of education must provide adequate school health services, instruction in health education, and a healthful school environment. MSDE and MDH must jointly develop public standards and guidelines for school health programs and offer assistance to the local boards of education and LHDs in their implementation. Each local school system must designate a school health services program coordinator, but it may authorize the LHD to designate a coordinator.

Each local school system must (1) provide in public schools a comprehensive health education program with sufficient frequency and duration to meet the requirements of the State curriculum for all students in prekindergarten through grade 8 and (2) offer in public schools a comprehensive health education program in grades 9 through 12 that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select health education electives. Access to the curriculum must be provided for nondiploma-bound students.

In order to graduate from public high school in Maryland, students must complete a credit of health.

New health education standards were adopted by the State Board of Education in December 2019; the [Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework](#) was revised and posted in July 2020. There are Family Life and Human Sexuality standards for prekindergarten through grade 8 and for two semesters of high school. MSDE advises that the current framework contains all the elements required by the bill.

State law requires local school systems to teach a number of specified health topics including drug addiction and prevention education; awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault; and CPR that includes hands-only CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator.

**State Expenditures:** MSDE advises that a half-time administrator is required to establish the Lifesaver Schools Program, which includes developing a standard application with the minimum requirements for schools, providing information and guidance to local school systems and schools interested in applying for recognition, and creating a review and evaluation process including tools and evaluation protocols to determine if schools that apply meet the minimum criteria. This position would also be responsible for determining how successful applicants would be recognized and ensuring that Maryland schools are aware of the program and how to apply. Additionally, the half-time Education Program Specialist I position would be responsible for providing technical assistance and training to schools that may not meet the minimum criteria for recognition.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that the requirements of the bill can likely be met by hiring a contractual half-time education program contractual position for the first fiscal year of program implementation, fiscal 2024. 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 \$38,025 in fiscal 2024, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay from the bill’s July 1, 2023 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	\$31,013
Operating Expenses	<u>7,012</u>
<b>Total FY 2024 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$38,025</b>

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:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2023  
rh/mcr

---

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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