

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 324

(Senator Rosapepe)

Budget and Taxation

Rules and Executive Nominations

Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation, to be staffed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The task force must collect specified information from each local board of education and any other relevant county department regarding nonpublic school student busing programs in the county, other than programs for the transportation of students in special education placements. In addition, the task force must evaluate the impact on State revenues and expenditures, traffic congestion, and environmental and safety goals of the adoption of programs used in other states to provide transportation to nonpublic school students or otherwise reduce the use of passenger vehicles for the transportation of nonpublic school students. The task force must submit its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly by December 15, 2023. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MSDE can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local governments can participate in and provide information to the task force with existing budgeted resources. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A member of the task force may not receive compensation as a member of the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

As noted above, the task force must evaluate the impact of specified programs relating to the transportation of nonpublic school students, such as (1) through consultation with the Comptroller, a State income tax credit for student bus transportation expenses or other financial support; (2) utilizing public school buses during off hours; (3) transporting nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students; and (4) transporting nonpublic school students in separate buses.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 486 (Delegates Attar and Stein) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Association of Counties; National Association of Independent Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2023
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