

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1194 (Delegate Tomlinson, *et al.*)
Ways and Means and Judiciary

Public Schools - Injury Incidents - Requirements for Tracking and Reporting

This bill requires public elementary and secondary schools, the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB), the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD), and schools under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP) to develop and implement a system to track and report injury incidents that occur on the school campus. The bill specifies reporting requirements for the data collected on injury incidents. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must adopt regulations to implement the bill. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE, MSD, and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) can implement the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Local school systems can likely implement the bill's provisions with existing budgeted resources, but some may need to temporarily reallocate resources to establish a tracking and reporting system. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An "injury incident" is an occurrence of physical or mental harm or injury, whether intentional or accidental, to a student, teacher, or school employee committed by another student, teacher, school employee, or other individual, regardless of whether a workers' compensation claim was filed or disciplinary action was taken.

The tracking system must collect information on each injury that occurs on the school campus and each incident that required a classroom, an office, or any other room in the school to be cleared for the safety of students, teachers, or school employees. If an injury incident resulted in a room being cleared, the school must (1) make an individual meeting with the school's counselor, psychologist, or other student advisor available to each student involved in or who witnessed the incident and (2) notify the parent or guardian of each student involved in or who witnessed the incident.

Public elementary and secondary schools must submit to the local school board (1) each injury incident report within 30 days of its occurrence or (2) a monthly compilation report. Similar requirements apply to (1) MSD and MSB, who must submit their reports to MSDE and (2) schools under JSEP jurisdiction, who must submit their reports to the JSEP superintendent.

Beginning January 1, 2026, and every six months thereafter, each local school board and JSEP must submit compilation reports to MSDE, which must verify the accuracy of a report from any school that reports no injury incidents. If MSDE is unable to verify the accuracy of the report, it must make recommendations for improvements in data collection at such schools.

Annually beginning October 1, 2026, MSDE must provide a summary report to the General Assembly for the immediately preceding school year that disaggregates injury incident data by school, subject to State and federal privacy laws. MSDE must also post the annual report on its website, as specified.

Current Law: State law does not address the reporting of injury incidents in public schools or State institutions. MSDE must require each local school board to report incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation against students, and MSDE must submit an annual summary report to the General Assembly. Public agencies (including local school systems) and nonpublic schools must also report annually to MSDE on the use of physical restraints and seclusion in their schools, as specified. MSDE must submit an annual summary report to the General Assembly, as specified.

Juvenile Services Education Program

Chapter 147 of 2021 transferred JSEP from MSDE to DJS and established the Juvenile Services Education Board to oversee the program. Through the program, DJS oversees and provides comprehensive educational services to all juveniles placed in a DJS-operated detention and residential facility.

Additional Comments: MSB is a private, nonprofit institution.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland School for the Deaf; Maryland Center for School Safety; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2025
km/clb

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