

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 86 (Senator Charles)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

General Assembly - Office Space, Services, and Equipment

This bill repeals the prohibition against a local government subsidizing a member of the General Assembly in the maintenance of office space, services, or equipment. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate decrease in general fund expenditures beginning in FY 2027, but a reliable estimate is not feasible, as discussed below.

Local Effect: Local government expenditures may increase to the extent local governments elect to subsidize members of the General Assembly with the maintenance of office space, services, or equipment. Any such expenditures are discretionary. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The State must provide the members of the General Assembly with reasonable office space and services, equipment, and secretarial services, as provided in the State budget. Local governments are prohibited from subsidizing a member of the General Assembly in the maintenance of the space, services, or equipment. However, this prohibition does not prevent the establishment of an office by a local government to maintain liaison between the local government and the General Assembly.

State Expenditures: The fiscal 2027 budget as introduced includes approximately \$12.3 million for the General Assembly for nonpersonnel related operating expenses, which includes rent, office supplies and equipment, and contractual services. The Department of Legislative Services cannot predict or estimate which, if any, local jurisdictions choose to subsidize members of the General Assembly under the bill. However, general fund expenditures may decrease to the extent local governments elect to subsidize members of the General Assembly, thereby reducing the need for the State to cover the subsidized costs.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Harford County; Cities of College Park and Frostburg; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Budget and Management; State Ethics Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2026
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