



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 720 Education – Maryland School for the Blind – Pay Plan (Zucker)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 24, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 720 requires the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management to establish a standard pay plan for teachers and professional personnel at the Maryland School for the Blind, after considering recommendations from the School's Board. Every three years, the Secretary must review salaries for adjustments, and include the salary recommendations in the recommendations for the Governor's review and approval to be included in the Budget.

EXPLANATION: SB 720 establishes a precedent for the State to be setting salaries for a private, non-profit entity. While the comparison may be made to the Department's role relative to the Maryland School for the Deaf, the Maryland School for the Deaf is a state entity -- the Maryland School for the Blind is not.

The State values the Maryland School for the Blind and awards a significant grant amount to the School for the comprehensive and specialized educational services provided to students whose needs cannot be met in the local school system. The FY 2022 budget allowance for the School is \$24.8 million. However, the teachers and professional personnel at the School are not in the State Personnel Management System.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**