

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 904
Judiciary

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Prince George's County - Drug Free School Zones - Hotline Number on Signs
PG 406-12

This bill requires that in Prince George's County, all new and replacement signs designating drug free school zones include a hotline number to report information concerning suspected illegal drug activity.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County can modify the existing "drug free school zones" signs with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A county board of education may adopt regulations requiring the posting of signs designating areas within 1,000 feet of public or nonpublic elementary or secondary schools as "drug free school zones." The signs must be designed to provide notice of relevant provisions of the Criminal Law Article. In Baltimore City, all new and replacement signs must include a hotline number to report information concerning suspected illegal drug activity.

A person is prohibited from manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with the intent to distribute a controlled substance or from conspiring to commit any of these offenses in a school vehicle; or in, on, or within 1,000 feet of specified school property. Violators are guilty of a felony and, for a first offense, are subject to maximum penalties of a fine of \$20,000 and/or imprisonment for 20 years. Subsequent offenders are subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years, which may not be suspended and during which parole is prohibited, and maximum penalties of a fine of \$40,000 and/or imprisonment for 40 years.

Local Expenditures: Prince George's County advises that signs affected by the bill cost \$54 for materials plus installation labor charges. The bill, however, does not alter the pace of either the installation of new signs or replacement of existing signs. Therefore, the bill will not affect Prince George's County expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2012
mlm/hlb

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