

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 149 (Senator Frosh. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Public Schools - Integrated Pest Management

This bill extends existing pesticide notification and application requirements at public schools to pesticide applications on school grounds effective March 15, 2001. County boards of education must develop and implement an approved integrated pest management system for school grounds by the beginning of the 2001 school year. Under current law such notification and application requirements only apply to pesticide applications inside a school building.

As a result, local school systems must notify each parent, guardian, and staff member on the county's pesticide notification list at least 48 hours before any pesticide application outside a school building. When a pesticide application occurs at an elementary school, the school system must notify each student's parent or guardian and each staff member, regardless of whether they are on the pesticide notification list.

The Department of Agriculture must report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2000 on the status of the bill's implementation.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in local school expenditures. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Legislation was enacted in 1998 that requires each county board of education to develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in each primary and secondary public school in the county. The IPM program must be approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. As a part of this legislation, local boards were required to develop a list of pesticide-sensitive students and staff members. Furthermore, local school officials must notify each parent, guardian, and staff member on the pesticide notification list at least 24 hours before any pesticide application. When a pesticide application occurs at an elementary school, the school system must notify each student's parents or guardian and each staff member, regardless of whether they are on the notification list. Exceptions are made for emergency applications. Finally, local boards must provide an opportunity, at least once a year, for individuals to comment on the county's pest management program. These provisions only apply to pesticide applications inside a school building. This bill extends the applicability of these provisions to pesticide application on school grounds.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures may increase as a result of the extension of the notification requirement to outside pesticide applications. Howard County advises that the school system performs around 200 outside pesticide applications each year and the cost to notify students, parents, and staff would total around \$5,000. Anne Arundel County advises that the bill's provisions would have no cost on the school system.

The Department of Legislative Services assumes that because local school systems are already required to develop notification procedures for pesticide applications inside a school building, local school expenditures should not be significantly affected. Actual costs will depend upon the number of pesticide-sensitive students, the frequency of pesticide applications outside of school buildings, and how the notices are transmitted to the students' parents and guardians.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Baltimore County Public Schools

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 1999
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