

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 First Reader

House Bill 535 (Delegate Saab, *et al.*)  
 Ways and Means

Anne Arundel County Public Schools - Preventive Measure Unit Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Preventive Measure Unit Pilot Program in Anne Arundel County to monitor middle school students who have behavioral, social, or legal difficulties in- or out-of-school. The program must be conducted during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, and the bill includes related reporting requirements. In fiscal 2022 and 2023, the Governor must include sufficient funds to employ three individuals necessary to implement the program in three selected schools. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020, and terminates June 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$242,800 in FY 2022 and by \$247,400 in FY 2023 to fund the pilot program in Anne Arundel County. No effect on revenues. **The bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2022 and 2023.**

(in dollars)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	242,800	247,400	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$242,800)	(\$247,400)	\$0	\$0

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** Anne Arundel County Public Schools revenues increase by the same amount as the State expenditures in FY 2022 and 2023. To the extent that State funds are not sufficient to cover the costs of the pilot program, Anne Arundel County expenditures may increase to cover any funding gap. **The bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The pilot program provides (1) increased monitoring and attention and (2) individualized networking with community programs, schools, students, and parents. The Anne Arundel County Board of Education, in collaboration with the Anne Arundel County Police Department and the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, must select three middle schools in the county to participate in the program.

The Anne Arundel County school board must create one preventive measure unit position in each school, which must be in addition to any school resource officers (SRO) assigned to the school.

By February 1, 2022 (and, under the bill, each year thereafter), the Anne Arundel County school board must report to the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the program. The Department of Legislative Services notes that the pilot program terminates after two years.

**Current Law/Background:** Chapter 30 of 2018 (the Safe to Learn Act) defined an SRO as (1) a law enforcement officer assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between a local law enforcement agency and a local school system or (2) a Baltimore City School Police Officer, as defined in current law. It required all SROs to complete an approved specialized training program by September 1, 2019.

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, and each year thereafter, each local school system must file a report with the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) that identifies (1) the public schools that have an SRO assigned and (2) if no SRO is assigned to a public school, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the school. For school year 2019-2020, Anne Arundel County reported to MCSS that it assigned SROs to 17 of its 19 middle schools.

Beginning in fiscal 2020 and each year thereafter, the Governor must include \$10.0 million for the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems and law enforcement agencies to meet the SRO/law enforcement coverage requirements. Grants must be made based on the proportion of public schools in each jurisdiction.

**State Expenditures:** The bill mandates appropriations in fiscal 2022 and 2023 to cover the cost of three positions for the pilot program. Anne Arundel County Public Schools estimates the cost of three positions to be \$242,844 in fiscal 2022, which includes salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, and other operating costs for each of the three positions. The total cost increases to \$247,372 in fiscal 2023, after which the program terminates. Therefore, general fund expenditures increase by those amounts in fiscal 2022 and 2023, respectively.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Revenues for Anne Arundel County Public Schools increase commensurate with the mandated State expenditures. To the extent that the costs of the pilot program exceed the funding provided by the State, expenditures by Anne Arundel County increase to fill any funding gap. Anne Arundel County advises that its cost estimates do not include any potential fiscal effect for the county police department or mental health agency.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1418 of 2019 was assigned to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, and no further action was taken on the bill.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Center for School Safety; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2020  
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