

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 426 (Senator Simonaire)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Judiciary

Anne Arundel County - Drug Free School Zones - Hotline Number on Signs

This bill requires that in Anne Arundel 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: Anne Arundel 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 and nonpublic elementary and 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 and Prince George’s County, 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 dangerous substance, or from conspiring to commit any of these offenses, (1) in a school vehicle or (2) 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 generally prohibited, and maximum penalties of a fine of \$40,000 and/or imprisonment for 40 years.

Local Expenditures: Anne Arundel County advises that signs affected by the bill cost \$100 to replace. 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 Anne Arundel County expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2013
mm/hlb

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