

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1400 (Delegate Afzali)
Ways and Means

County Boards of Education - Discipline Regulations

This bill authorizes a local board of education to disregard all or a portion of the State Board of Education guidelines that define a State code of discipline for all public schools and include standards of conduct and consequences for violations of the standards. Also, regulations adopted by a local board of education are not subject to these State guidelines.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill authorizes, but does not require, a local board of education to alter school discipline guidelines. Local school systems may avoid certain personnel costs associated with State guidelines for student discipline. The extent of any cost savings will depend upon each local school system's decisions.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each local board of education must establish special programs for public school students who exhibit disruptive classroom behavior, in order to promote positive behavior and reduce disruption. For cause, a public school principal may suspend a student for up to 10 days. A suspension for longer than 10 days or an expulsion must be made by the local superintendent of schools at the request of a principal, and a student

may appeal the suspension or expulsion to the local board of education. With the exception of in-school suspensions, a student may not be suspended or expelled from school solely for attendance-related offenses.

Background: In December 2013, the State Board of Education published for comment new suspension regulations for prekindergarten through grade 12. The regulations became effective February 17, 2014. The regulations require, among other things, each local school system to designate a liaison between teachers and various students on out-of-school suspension or expulsion, specify certain responsibilities of the liaison, and also require that certain students on expulsion or suspension receive daily classwork and assignments from each teacher.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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