

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 841 (Senator Carter, *et al.*)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore City - Auxiliary Volunteer School Safety Team Program - Established

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to establish the Auxiliary Volunteer School Safety Team Program to augment the safety of individuals working in or attending Baltimore City Public Schools. It also establishes a Center of Excellence for School Safety at Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). The Governor must include \$300,000 in the fiscal 2021 budget for the program and the center. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$178,500 in FY 2020 to launch the center and program. General fund expenditures increase by \$300,000 in FY 2021 to comply with the mandated appropriation, and then reflect actual costs for the center in the out-years as well as annual funding for the program. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2021.**

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	178,500	300,000	213,400	218,800	224,500
Net Effect	(\$178,500)	(\$300,000)	(\$213,400)	(\$218,800)	(\$224,500)

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

Local Effect: Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) expenditures increase by approximately \$120,000 beginning in FY 2020 to establish the new program, partially offset by an increase in revenues of \$50,000 from the State grant beginning in FY 2020. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The program includes an Auxiliary Volunteer School Safety Team consisting of 10 adult and 10 youth volunteers to supplement, but not supplant, the local school assessment teams required by current law. The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners must develop a curriculum for the program that is based on the model policy established by the School Safety Subcabinet in current law.

The center consists of a leadership and analysis team that must provide support, technical assistance, and research-based guidance for the program.

The \$300,000 fiscal 2021 appropriation mandated by the bill is allocated as follows:

- \$250,000 to establish the center;
- \$25,000 to develop the curriculum for auxiliary team members;
- \$20,000 to establish an evaluation team to provide a 5-week, 80-hour training course based on the curriculum; and
- \$5,000 to establish the Auxiliary Volunteer School Safety Team.

Current Law: Chapter 30 of 2018 (the Maryland Safe to Learn Act) made comprehensive changes designed to improve the safety of Maryland's public schools. The following provisions were enacted under Chapter 30.

School Safety Subcabinet and Model

The School Safety Subcabinet consists of the following individuals or their designees:

- the State Superintendent of Schools;
- the Secretary of Health;
- the Secretary of State Police;
- the Attorney General;
- the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities; and
- the Executive Director of the Interagency Committee on School Construction.

The State Superintendent or designee chairs the subcabinet and the Executive Director of the Maryland Center for School Safety provides staff.

The subcabinet was charged with multiple responsibilities, among them a requirement to develop, by September 1, 2018, a model policy for the establishment of one or more assessment teams in each local school system. The model policy must include specified provisions generally related to (1) the identification of, and intervention with, students or

other individuals who may pose a threat to school safety; (2) the composition and appropriate number of assessment teams within local school systems; and (3) training for the assessment teams.

By September 1, 2019, each local school system must adopt a policy for the establishment of assessment teams that is consistent with the model policy. Local policies must include:

- a process for regular assessment and intervention, including diversion and de-escalation, if an individual exhibits behavior that may pose a threat to school safety;
- standards for timely response and procedures for coordination among members of the team, including referral of relevant information to appropriate authorities; and
- standards and procedures for the referral of an individual for evaluation, services, or treatment when appropriate.

State Expenditures: Although the mandated appropriation occurs in fiscal 2021, the bill requires the Center of Excellence for School Safety at BCCC and the Auxiliary Volunteer School Safety Team program to begin in fiscal 2020. Therefore, this analysis assumes that the fiscal effect begins in fiscal 2020.

General fund expenditures increase by \$128,528 in fiscal 2020 to fund the center, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay from the bill’s July 1, 2019 effective date. Funding for the program is also assumed to begin in fiscal 2020 at \$50,000, for a total of \$178,528. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring a director and administrative assistant to operate the new center at BCCC. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

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Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$114,060
Operating Expenses	14,468
Auxiliary School Safety Team Program	<u>50,000</u>
Total FY 2020 State Expenditures	\$178,528

In fiscal 2021, general fund expenditures increase by \$300,000, which reflects the mandated appropriation and includes \$250,000 for the center and \$50,000 for the program; the Department of Legislative Services notes that this appropriation is larger than is needed to fund the center. Future year expenditures assume that the center remains in existence and reflect the termination of the mandated appropriation, annual increases and employee turnover, \$50,000 annually for the program, and ongoing operating expenses.

Local Fiscal Effect: BCPS revenues increase by \$50,000 in fiscal 2020 to establish the Auxiliary Volunteer School Safety Program and Team, and are assumed to be maintained at that level annually thereafter.

BCPS advises that the cost of operating the auxiliary program is approximately \$120,000 annually. Factoring in the State appropriation, the net effect on BCPS is a \$70,000 increase in expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Community College; Department of Budget and Management; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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