

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 536 (Senator Lam, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
and Judicial Proceedings

Public Safety - Education - Firearm Funding

This bill prohibits a local school board or public school from using funds from any source to directly or indirectly provide a teacher with a firearm. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains only to local school systems.

Local Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law does not address the provision of firearms to teachers by local school boards or public schools.

Chapter 30 of 2018 (Maryland Safe to Learn Act) requires local school systems to file annual reports with the Maryland Center for School Safety that, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, identify which public schools have a School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned and, if no SRO is assigned, the adequate law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the school. Chapter 30 requires the Governor to include \$10.0 million each year for grants to local school systems and law enforcement agencies to meet the SRO/law enforcement coverage requirements.

State law defines a firearm as a weapon that expels, is designed to expel, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, or the frame or receiver of such a weapon.

Background: According to the Education Commission of the States report [State Policy Responses to School Violence](#), as of August 2018, 28 states (including Maryland) have policies that allow security personnel to carry firearms in schools. In addition, some states (but not Maryland) allow other individuals to carry firearms in public schools:

- 8 states allow other school employees to carry firearms (although some require that permission be granted by the school or district authority);
- 10 states allow concealed carry permit holders to carry firearms on school grounds (but they may also require permission from the school or district); and
- 21 states allow schools or districts to give individuals permission to carry firearms.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 367 (Delegate Solomon, *et al.*) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Education Commission of the States; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Maryland Center for School Safety; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510