

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1521 (Howard County Delegation)  
Economic Matters and Ways and Means

---

**Howard County - Sales of Residential Real Property - Notice of School District  
Boundary Changes**  
**Ho. Co. 04-20**

---

This bill requires a contract for the sale of residential property in Howard County to contain a specified notice related to school district boundary changes. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect Howard County operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The required notice must state that, by signing the addendum, the buyer is acknowledging that the Howard County Public School System schools designated for the property are subject to change and that the buyer has no assurance that the current school assignments for the property will remain in effect. The notice must state that the Howard County Board of Education periodically reviews and amends the school boundaries for each school and is ultimately responsible for any changes to the assigned schools and their boundaries.

**Background:** In November 2019, the Howard County Board of Education approved a redistricting plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan, which changes the attendance

area for more than 5,400 students in the county, was the culmination of the largest redistricting effort in the county's history. The approved redistricting plan is intended to reduce overcrowding and advance socioeconomic equity.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts);  
*The Baltimore Sun*; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2020  
md/jkb

---

Analysis by: Donovan A. Ham

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