

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1092 (Delegate Grammer)
Ways and Means

County Boards of Education - Payment Data - Disclosures

This bill requires the local school system in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties to develop and operate a single searchable website that contains specified payment data by January 1, 2022. The website must be accessible to the public through the Internet at no cost. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures may increase by \$50,000 to \$100,000 for each local school system in FY 2021. Ongoing operating expenditures are assumed to total \$5,000 annually thereafter. Total expenditures may be less to the extent that the local school systems are able to utilize the information technology infrastructure of an existing transparency website. Local revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A “searchable website” is one that displays and searches payment data of each of the affected local school systems. Payment data in the searchable website must include the name and zip code of the payee and the amount of the payment. The website must allow a user to search the data for fiscal 2021 and each year thereafter by the payee’s name and zip code.

“Payee” means any party who receives from the local school system an aggregate payment of \$25,000 in a fiscal year. It does not include an employee or retiree of the local school system. The bill may not be construed to require the disclosure of information that is confidential under federal, State, or local law.

Current Law: The Maryland Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 (Chapter 659) requires the Department of Information Technology to operate a searchable website that contains specified payment data for the State. The website is now available at the State’s online [transparency portal](#).

Chapter 541 of 2019 repealed requirements for the five school systems that were identical to the requirements of this bill, and instead required the five school systems to transfer their payee data to the Department of Budget and Management for inclusion in the State’s transparency portal. The original requirements that were repealed by Chapter 541 include:

- Chapter 424 of 2009 – Montgomery County
- Chapter 399 of 2010 – Howard County
- Chapter 105 of 2011 – Baltimore County
- Chapters 488 and 489 of 2011 – Prince George’s County
- Chapter 459 of 2015 – Anne Arundel County

Local Expenditures: Based on cost estimates from Anne Arundel and Montgomery County Public Schools, local school expenditures may increase by \$50,000 to \$100,000 for each local school system to develop a transparency website with the specifications required by the bill. Annual operating costs are projected to total \$5,000. To the extent that the local school systems still retain the information technology infrastructure of the transparency websites that they were required to operate prior to the enactment of Chapter 541, costs of reestablishing the websites may be substantially less. Moreover, the Department of Legislative Services notes that the same information is now required to be available, in a searchable format, from the State’s transparency portal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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mr/hlb

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