

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 1078  
Appropriations

(Delegate Solomon, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Public Safety - Education - Firearm Funding (No Funding for Firearms Act)**

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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 or train a teacher in the use of a firearm. The bill does not apply to a school-approved sport or club that uses firearms. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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**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.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** State law does not address the provision of firearms or firearms training 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 February 2019, 30 states (including Maryland) and the District of Columbia 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:

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

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** HB 367 of 2019 passed the House and was referred jointly to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Montgomery County Public Schools; Education Commission of the States; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2020  
rh/rhh Third Reader - March 16, 2020

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