

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1183
Ways and Means

(Delegate Saab, *et al.*)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools - Preventive Measure Unit Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Preventive Measure Unit Pilot Program in Anne Arundel County to monitor elementary and middle school students who have behavioral, social, or legal difficulties in or out of school. The program must be conducted during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, and the bill includes related reporting requirements. The pilot program provides (1) increased monitoring and attention and (2) individualized networking with community programs, schools, students, and parents. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by \$321,400 in fiscal 2024 and by \$327,900 in fiscal 2025, under assumptions discussed below. Local revenues are not affected. **The bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Anne Arundel County Board of Education, in collaboration with the Anne Arundel County Police Department and the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, must select three or four elementary or middle schools in the county to participate in the program. The administration, teachers, and staff of each selected school must cooperate with the preventative measure unit in the performance of its duties.

By February 1, 2024 (and, under the bill, each year thereafter), the Anne Arundel County school board must report to the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the program. The Department of Legislative Services notes that the pilot program terminates after two years.

Current Law: Under Chapter 30 of 2018, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, and each year thereafter, each local school system must file a report with the Maryland Center for School Safety that identifies (1) the public schools that have a school resource officer (SRO) assigned and (2) if no SRO is assigned to a public school, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the school. Beginning in fiscal 2020, \$10.0 million from the Safe Schools Fund must be used to provide grants to local school systems and law enforcement agencies to meet the SRO/law enforcement coverage requirements. Grants must be made based on the proportion of public schools in each jurisdiction.

By September 1, 2018, each local school system must appoint a mental health services coordinator to coordinate existing mental health services and referral procedures within the local school system. Working with specified local entities, the coordinator must (1) ensure that a student who is referred for mental health services obtains the necessary services; (2) maximize external funding for mental health and wraparound services, as defined by the bill; and (3) develop plans for delivering behavioral health and wraparound services to students who exhibit specified behaviors of concern. Grants from the Safe Schools Fund may be used to develop plans for delivering mental health and wraparound services.

Local Expenditures: This analysis assumes that four schools (the maximum allowed by the bill) are selected for the program, and that each school requires a Preventive Measure Unit Coordinator to operate the pilot program in the school. As the bill does not specify the composition of the Preventive Measure Unit, this analysis further assumes that it consists of the coordinator and existing staff in each school, including, for instance, a counselor, school psychologist, assistant principal, school nurse, and SRO.

Based on the above assumptions, Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by approximately \$321,400 in fiscal 2024 and, accounting for an annual salary increase, by \$327,900 in fiscal 2025 to cover the cost of one Preventative Measure Unit coordinator for each of four schools selected for pilot program participation. To the extent that the pilot program envisions hiring new staff for each unit (including mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, community liaisons, *etc.*), Anne Arundel County expenditures are substantially higher, potentially in excess of \$2.0 million. Otherwise, any fiscal effect on the county police department or the county mental health agency is assumed to be minimal as most of the responsibility for implementing the program rests with members of the unit.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 535 of 2020, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 1418 of 2019 was assigned to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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