

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1186
Ways and Means

(Delegate Ebersole)

Nonpublic Schools - Fire Drill Requirements - State Fire Prevention Code

This bill requires each nonpublic school in the State to (1) hold fire drills in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code; (2) keep records of each fire drill; and (3) send a copy of the records to the State Board of Education. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland State Department of Education and the Department of State Police (DSP) can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None. The bill pertains only to nonpublic schools.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Superintendent must require that each county superintendent hold a fire drill in each public school at least 10 times each school year and at least once every 60 days.

The State Fire Prevention Commission within DSP must adopt comprehensive regulations as a State Fire Prevention Code. The commission adopted by reference, subject to some exceptions noted in the regulations, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code (2015 Edition), the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2015 Edition), and some requirements of the International Building Code as the State Fire Prevention Code.

With regard to educational facilities, the code requires those with automatic sprinkler systems to hold five fire drills per year, with at least two occurring in the first four months of the school year. Educational facilities that are not fully protected by automatic sprinkler systems must hold eight fire drills annually, with at least three scheduled in the first four months of the school year. In both cases, one fire drill must be conducted in the first 30 days of operation, except for educational buildings that are open on a year-round basis. All occupants in the building must participate in a fire drill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 465 (Senator King, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

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