

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 541
Ways and Means

(Delegate Guzzone, *et al.*)

Public Schools - Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

This bill clarifies that each local board of education must ensure that each public school regularly restocks dispensers for menstrual hygiene products. The bill also makes a technical change to clarify that current law requirements relating to menstrual hygiene product dispensers are applicable to *each* public middle and high school and *each* public elementary school. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains to local boards of education.

Local Effect: The bill clarifies current law and therefore does not materially affect local governmental finances, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 705 and 706 of 2021 require each local board of education to ensure that each public school provide, at no charge to the students, menstrual hygiene products via dispensers in the women’s restrooms at the school. A public middle or high school must install menstrual hygiene product dispensers in at least two women’s restrooms on or before October 1, 2022, and in all women’s restrooms on or before August 1, 2025. A public elementary school must install menstrual hygiene product dispensers in at least one restroom on or before October 1, 2022.

Chapters 705 and 706 also required the State to reimburse a local board of education for the cost of purchasing and installing dispensers. The Maryland State Department of Education advises that the agency has already issued grants to local school systems in 2022 to cover the cost of such dispensers.

Local Expenditures: Local boards of education are already required, under Chapters 705 and 706, to ensure that each public school provides menstrual hygiene products at no cost to students (including installing dispensers in specified locations). To the extent local boards are not already *regularly* restocking dispensers, the bill may have an impact on local boards of education to ensure restocking protocols remain in compliance with the updated language of the bill. This may entail additional purchase of menstrual hygiene products, however, this analysis assumes expenditures associated with additional menstrual products for regular restocking can be absorbed using existing resources with minimal overall fiscal impact to a local school system.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 307 (Senators Hettleman and Love) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Baltimore City Public Schools, Frederick County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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caw/clb

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