

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 830
Ways and Means

(Washington County Delegation)

Washington County - Board of Education - Regional Election Districts

This bill submits to a referendum of Washington County voters at the 2008 general election whether county board of education members should be elected from regional districts or from the county at-large. If a majority of voters opt for board members elected from regional districts, the bill creates a task force staffed by the Washington County Board of Education to recommend a process for electing board members from regional districts. Members of the task force serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses as provided in the State budget. The task force must submit its report to the Washington County delegation by December 31, 2009.

If a majority of voters in Washington County opt for at-large members of the county board of education, the bill terminates after the 2008 general election. If a majority of voters opt for regional elections for the board of education, the bill expires June 30, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in State expenditures in FY 2009 and 2010 to reimburse members of the task force for their expenses, subject to the results of the 2008 referendum.

Local Effect: None. Washington County can organize the referendum and staff the task force with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Washington County Board of Education is one of 17 local boards of education that are elected by county voters. Another seven boards are appointed, including Queen Anne's County, which will begin transitioning from an appointed board to an elected board at the 2008 general election. Of the 17 elected boards, 7 (including Washington County) have only members who are elected at large, 5 have only members elected from regional districts, and the remaining 5 have a mixture of regional and at-large members. The selection method and number of school board members for each of the 24 local boards are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2007
mll/rhh

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Exhibit 1
Local Boards of Education
Members and Selection Methods

<u>County</u>	<u>Full Voting Members</u>	<u>Appointed Members</u>	<u>Elected Members From County At Large</u>	<u>Elected Members From Districts</u>	<u>Student Member(s)</u>
Allegany	5	0	5	0	1
Anne Arundel	7	7	0	0	1
Baltimore City	9	9	0	0	1
Baltimore	11	11	0	0	1
Calvert	5	0	2	3	1
Caroline	5	5	0	0	0
Carroll	5	0	5	0	1
Cecil	5	0	0	5	1
Charles	7	0	7	0	1
Dorchester	5	0	0	5	2
Frederick	7	0	7	0	0
Garrett	5	0	2	3	1
Harford	7	7	0	0	1
Howard	7	0	7	0	0
Kent	5	0	5	0	0
Montgomery	7	0	2	5	1
Prince George's	9	0	4	5	1
Queen Anne's*	5	5	0	0	0
St. Mary's	5	0	1	4	1
Somerset	5	0	0	5	0
Talbot	7	0	0	7	1
Washington	7	0	7	0	0
Wicomico	7	7	0	0	0
Worcester	7	0	0	7	3

*The Queen Anne's County board will begin transitioning to an elected board at the 2008 general election.
