

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 324 (Chair, Anne Arundel County Senators)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Ways and Means

Anne Arundel County - Board of Education - Appointment Process

This bill establishes a School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County to select nominees for the county Board of Education that the Governor must choose from in appointing board members.

The bill also makes other changes to the selection process for appointed members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education and changes the composition of the board by converting one at-large seat into a regional seat.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the State Board of Elections could increase by \$75,000 in FY 2009 to reprogram election software and test the changes. There are no additional costs once the changes have been made.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	75,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$75,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None. The bill does not alter compensation for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill provides that the Anne Arundel County Board of Education consists of eight members, of whom two members are selected from the county at large, five members represent each of the five legislative districts in the county, and one member is a student.

The School Board Nominating Commission consists of 11 members, appointed as follows:

- five by the Governor, one from each legislative district in the county;
- one by the county executive;
- one by the teachers' association of Anne Arundel County;
- one by the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce;
- one by the Anne Arundel County Council of Parent Teacher Associations;
- one by the Anne Arundel County Community College Board of Trustees; and
- one by the Association of Education Leaders.

Commission members serve four year terms, except that the terms of the first members of the commission expire January 18, 2009. The Governor designates the commission's chair from among the five Governor-appointed members. The Governor may reappoint the chair for a second term.

Beginning January 1, 2008, for each nomination to the county board of education, the commission submits at least two nominees to the Governor for each vacancy, unless there are fewer than two applicants for a vacancy. Once appointed to the board, a member may serve a second consecutive term if a majority of registered voters in the county approve the member's continuance in office. A member appointed to fill a vacancy may finish the remainder of the term subject to the approval of a majority of the county's voters. If voters reject a member's continuance in office, the member serves until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

Incumbent school board members are not responsible for filing a certificate of candidacy for their re-election to the board. Instead, on or before August 31, the county board must notify the State Board of Education of a member's intention to stand for re-election.

Members of the county school board serving their first term as of June 30, 2008 are eligible to be included in the list of nominees submitted to the Governor to serve a second term. However, they may be reappointed by the Governor only if a majority of county voters approve their continuance in office.

Current Law: The Anne Arundel County Board of Education consists of eight members appointed by the Governor, of whom three represent the county at large, four represent legislative districts, and one is a student.

Background: The Anne Arundel County Board of Education is one of seven appointed school boards in the State, of which one (Queen Anne’s County) is in the process of transitioning to an elected board. Seventeen local boards are elected by county voters. The selection method and number of school board members for each of the 24 local boards are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

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

<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>
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.

State Fiscal Effect: The elections for continuance in office for each appointed member of the board of education specified in the bill require the State Board of Elections to develop new general election ballot formats. This involves reprogramming election software and testing the new ballots. The State board estimates this will cost \$75,000 in contractual expenditures in fiscal 2009 to develop the new formats. Once the new formats are developed and tested, there are no additional charges in future elections.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 24 of 2006, a similar bill, passed the House but received an unfavorable report by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Anne Arundel County, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/rhh

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