

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 397 (Senator Klausmeier)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Task Force on the Membership and Operation of the Baltimore County Board of Education

This bill establishes a Task Force on the Membership and Operation of the Baltimore County Board of Education. The task force must make recommendations on the ideal size of the board of education; the most appropriate method of selecting board members; the appropriate phase-in period for changes to the existing selection process; and improving the transparency and professionalism of the board. The Office of the Baltimore County Executive must provide staff support for the task force. A report of findings and recommendations is due by October 1, 2011.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011, and terminates December 31, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Staffing requirements and expense reimbursements for task force members can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore County Board of Education consists of 12 members, of whom 4 members are appointed from the county at large, 7 members are appointed from each of the seven legislative districts in the county, and 1 is a student member. Members serve five-year terms, except the student member who serves a one-year term.

Background: The Baltimore County Board of Education is one of five appointed school boards in the State, including one (Caroline County) that is in the process of transitioning to a hybrid board of appointed and elected members. Harford County has such a hybrid board. Eighteen 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

School System	Number of Members	Term	Means of Selection¹
Allegany	7	4 years	E 5 from county at large 1 commissioner <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Anne Arundel	9	5 years	A 3 from county at large 5 from legislative districts 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore City	10	3 years	A 9 from city at large 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore	12	5 years	A 4 from county at large 7 from council districts 1 student (one-year term)
Calvert	6	4 years	E 2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Caroline ²	7	4 years	A/E 3 elected from school board districts 2 appointed from county at large 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Carroll	9	4 years	E 5 from county at large 3 commissioners <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Cecil	6	4 years	E 5 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Charles	8	4 years	E 7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Dorchester	7	4 years	E 5 from council districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Frederick	8	4 years	E 7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one year term)
Garrett	7	4 years	E 2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 commissioner <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)

School System	Number of Members	Term	Means of Selection ¹
Harford	11	4 years	A/E 6 elected from council districts 3 appointed 1 superintendent <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Howard	8	4 years	E 7 from county at large 1 student (one-year term)
Kent	6	4 years	E 5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Montgomery	8	4 years	E 2 from county at large 5 from school board districts 1 student (one-year term)
Prince George's	10	4 years	E 9 from school board districts 1 student (one-year term)
Queen Anne's	7	4 years	E 1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
St. Mary's	6	4 years	E 1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Somerset	5	4 years	E All from commissioner districts
Talbot	8	4 years	E 7 from school board districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Washington	8	4 years	E 7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Wicomico	7	5 years	A All from county at large
Worcester	10	4 years	E 7 from commissioner districts 3 students (nonvoting, one-year term)

¹A = Appointed by Governor, except in Baltimore City where board is appointed jointly by the Governor and the Mayor. E = Elected. A/E = Combined appointed and elected board.

²Voters in Caroline County decided at the 2010 general election to change from an appointed board to a combination appointed and elected board beginning with the November 2012 general election. The terms of the five current appointed members will expire December 2, 2012.

Source: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 3-101 through 3-1405; local board of education websites

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 398 (Baltimore County Delegation) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2011
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