

**HB1492/825967/1**

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1492  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Blue Ribbon Commission on School Transparency and Accountability”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 3 on page 1 through line 1 on page 2, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of establishing the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Transparency and Accountability; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Transparency and Accountability.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 2 through 5, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 2 on page 2 through line 8 on page 5, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Blue Ribbon Commission on School Transparency and Accountability.

(Over)

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(b) The Commission consists of the following members:

(1) one former member of the State Board of Education, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

(2) one academic expert whose area of expertise is ethics in school systems and accountability, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

(3) one former State Superintendent of Schools, appointed by the Governor;

(4) one former county superintendent of schools, appointed by the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland;

(5) one former member of a county board of education, appointed by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education;

(6) one retired educator, appointed by the Maryland State Education Association and AFT–Maryland;

(7) one parent of a student in Maryland public schools, appointed by the Maryland Parent Teacher Association; and

(8) three members, one each appointed by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor, who:

(i) are not currently employed by a local school system or the State Department of Education; and

(ii) are not currently serving as a member of a county board or the State Board of Education.

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(c) The members of the Commission shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Commission shall:

(1) study best practices for promoting ethics, accountability, and transparency in State and local government; and

(2) make recommendations regarding:

(i) ethics rules governing county superintendents and members of county boards and the State Board of Education;

(ii) procedures for removal for cause or other misconduct of county superintendents and members of county boards and the State Board of Education;

(iii) laws, regulations, and practices regarding county superintendent contracts, including length of contract and termination provisions;

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(iv) availability of school system documents to members of county boards, the State Board of Education, and the public at large, and whether the current Public Information Act provides adequate transparency;

(v) use of closed meetings by county boards and the State Board of Education, and whether the current Open Meetings Act provides adequate transparency;

(vi) use of inspectors general or ombudsmen to assist in accountability and transparency efforts in local school systems; and

(vii) adequacy of current whistleblower protection laws and processes available for anonymous reporting of fraud, waste, or abuse.

(g) On or before January 1, 2019, the Commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations on the matters listed in subsection (f) of this section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”.

On page 5, in line 10, after the period insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.