

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 357 (Delegate Ebersole, *et al.*)  
Ways and Means

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Appointment of County Superintendent of Schools - Disapproval by State  
Superintendent of Schools

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This bill establishes that the State Superintendent of Schools may *only* disapprove an appointment of a local superintendent of schools if the appointee does not meet the requirements for a local superintendent codified in current law. The bill does not apply to Baltimore City or Prince George’s County. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill can be implemented using existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None. Local school system expenditures are not materially affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** An individual may not be appointed as a local superintendent unless the individual: (1) is eligible to be issued a certificate for the office by the State Superintendent; (2) has graduated from an accredited college or university; and (3) has completed two years of graduate work at an accredited college or university, including public school administration, supervision, and methods of teaching. The appointment of a local superintendent of schools is not valid unless approved in writing by the State Superintendent of Schools. If the State Superintendent disapproves an appointment, the State Superintendent must give his or her reasons for disapproval in writing to the local board. These provisions of law do not apply to Baltimore City or Prince George’s County.

There are no restrictions on the reason a State Superintendent may disapprove the appointment of a local superintendent in current law.

According to State regulations, but not contained in statute, the requirements for certification as a superintendent, deputy superintendent, associate superintendent, assistant superintendent, or equivalent position must (1) have a master's degree from an institution of higher education; (2) have three years of satisfactory teaching experience and two years of satisfactory administrative or supervisory experience in a prekindergarten to grade 12 school setting; and (3) submit a minimum of 24 credits of post-master's, graduate coursework in educational administration and supervision that includes a balance of specified coursework. A superintendent who enters Maryland from another state may obtain superintendent certification if that superintendent held a valid professional state certificate and presents verification of at least 27 months of satisfactory performance as a superintendent during the past seven years on the basis of which application is being made for a like or comparable Maryland certificate.

**Background:** The State Superintendent has disapproved the appointment of at least one local superintendent in the past five years. If the State Superintendent disapproves the appointment of a local superintendent, the individual may serve one-year terms ending July 1 as interim superintendent but may not be granted a multi-year contract.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 222 (Senator Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Talbot County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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