

Chapter 405

(Senate Bill 749)

AN ACT concerning

Charles County – Board of Education – Membership Alterations

FOR the purpose of altering the manner of election for certain members of the Charles County Board of Education by specifying that certain members be elected from certain ~~school board~~ county commissioner districts; ~~requiring the Board of Charles County Commissioners to establish a certain number of school board districts in a certain manner;~~ providing for the ballot requirements for a certain election; requiring the State Board of Elections declare the election of certain candidates; providing for the qualifications of the elected members of the county board; ~~altering the day the term of an elected member begins;~~ establishing staggered terms for the elected members of the county board beginning with a certain election; prohibiting elected members from serving more than a certain number of consecutive terms; ~~requiring the County Commissioners to fill a certain vacancy under certain circumstances;~~ establishing a residency requirement for an individual appointed to fill a certain vacancy; ~~requiring the County Commissioners to interview an applicant for a certain vacancy on the county board in a certain manner; requiring the County Commissioners to publish a certain list of applicants in a certain manner at least a certain amount of time before interviews are scheduled to occur;~~ requiring a student member of the county board, and an alternate, to be selected by a certain entity; providing that a student member of the county board is a voting member; authorizing the student member of the county board to vote on all matters before the county board, with the exception of certain specified matters; prohibiting the student member of the county board from attending a certain executive session that relates to certain matters except under certain circumstances; authorizing the county board to determine, in a certain manner, whether a certain matter is a matter on which the student member may not vote; authorizing the State Board of Education to remove a student member from the county board in a certain manner; requiring a certain member of the county board to serve as chair; repealing the requirement that the county board elect a chair in a certain manner; providing for the initial terms of the elected members of the county board; making conforming changes; ~~defining a certain term;~~ and generally relating to the membership of the Charles County Board of Education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section ~~3-501 and 3-502~~
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Education

Section 3-502
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

3-501.

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, “COUNTY COMMISSIONERS” MEANS THE BOARD OF CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.~~

~~[(a)] (B)~~ (1) The Charles County Board consists of:

[(1)] (I) ~~Seven~~ NINE [voting] ELECTED members; and

[(2)] (II) One [nonvoting] student member.

(2) ~~OF THE SEVEN~~ NINE ELECTED MEMBERS:

(I) ~~SIX~~ TWO MEMBERS SHALL:

1. BE ELECTED FROM EACH OF THE FOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS;

~~1.~~ 2. BE A RESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE MEMBER IS ELECTED; AND

~~2.~~ 3. BE ELECTED ONLY BY THE VOTERS OF THAT SCHOOL BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT; AND

(II) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE ELECTED FROM THE COUNTY AT-LARGE.

~~(C) (1) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL ESTABLISH SIX SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY.~~

~~(2) (I) THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL IN POPULATION AND REAPPORTIONED ON THE BASIS OF EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS.~~

~~(H) REAPPORTIONED DISTRICTS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE COMMENCING AFTER THE FIRST REGULAR PRIMARY ELECTION HELD NOT LESS THAN 15 MONTHS AFTER THE OFFICIAL REPORT ON POPULATION IS RECEIVED BY THE STATE FROM THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU.~~

~~(D)~~ (B) (1) AS APPLICABLE FOR THAT ~~SCHOOL BOARD~~ COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT, AT THE GENERAL ELECTION THE BALLOT SHALL PROVIDE THE VOTER WITH THE CHOICE TO CAST A VOTE “FOR” A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION FROM THAT ~~SCHOOL BOARD~~ COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT.

(2) AFTER THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE CERTIFIED, THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL DECLARE FOR EACH ~~SCHOOL BOARD~~ COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT WHETHER A CANDIDATE HAS BEEN ELECTED.

[(b)] ~~(E)~~ (C) (1) An individual [nominated for a voting membership on] ELECTED TO the county board shall be:

(I) AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD; AND

(II) [a] A resident and registered voter of Charles County FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS.

(2) [Any member who no longer resides in Charles County or who is not a registered voter of Charles County may not continue as a voting member of the board.] AN ELECTED MEMBER SHALL FORFEIT THE OFFICE IF THE MEMBER:

(I) FAILS TO RESIDE IN THE ~~SCHOOL BOARD~~ COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE MEMBER WAS ELECTED, UNLESS THIS CHANGE IS CAUSED BY A CHANGE IN BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICT;

(II) FAILS TO BE A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY; OR

(III) FAILS TO BE A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE COUNTY.

(3) AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY OR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OR THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO SERVE ON THE COUNTY BOARD.

[(c)] ~~(F)~~ (D) All [voting] ELECTED members of the Charles County Board shall be elected[:

(1) At] AT a general election as required by subsection [(d)] ~~(G)~~ (E) of this section[; and

(2) From Charles County at large].

~~[(d)]~~ ~~(G)~~ (E) (1) (I) [Each voting] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH ELECTED** member serves for a term of 4 years beginning on the ~~third] FIRST~~ Monday in December after the [gubernatorial] **GENERAL** election and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(II) If the ~~third] FIRST~~ Monday in December is a legal holiday, the term begins on the first day after the ~~third] FIRST~~ Monday in December that is not a legal holiday.

(2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS, BEGINNING WITH MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2022, ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD ON JULY 1, 2021.

(3) AN ELECTED MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE FOR MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

~~[(e)]~~ ~~(H)~~ (F) (1) ~~[The voting~~ **ELECTED** members of the county board] ~~IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS~~ shall select a qualified individual to fill any vacancy on the board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(2) AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY OF ~~A MEMBER ELECTED FROM A SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT~~ AN ELECTED MEMBER SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF THE SAME ~~SCHOOL BOARD~~ COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT AS THAT OF THE VACATING MEMBER.

~~[(2)]~~ **(3)** An interview of an applicant for a vacancy on the board shall be conducted by the ~~[board]~~ **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** at a meeting open to the public.

~~[(3)]~~ **(4)** (i) The ~~[board]~~ **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** shall publish a list of the names of the applicants for a vacancy on the board at least 2 weeks before the interview of the first applicant is scheduled to occur.

(ii) Public notice of the date, time, and location of each interview shall be published:

1. At least 2 weeks before the interview is scheduled to occur;
- and
2. In the same manner as a public notice of a regular meeting of the board is published.

~~[(4)]~~ **(5)** The ~~[board is]~~ ~~COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE~~ not required to conduct discussions of the applicants or make the final selection of the [voting] member **TO FILL A VACANCY OF THE ELECTED MEMBER** at a meeting open to the public.

~~[(f)]~~ ~~(F)~~ **(G)** (1) With the approval of the Governor, the State Board may remove [a voting] **AN ELECTED** member of the county board for any of the following reasons:

- (i) Immorality;
- (ii) Misconduct in office;
- (iii) Incompetency; or
- (iv) Willful neglect of duty.

(2) Before removing [a voting] **AN ELECTED** member, the State Board shall send the [voting] **ELECTED** member a copy of the charges pending and give the [voting] **ELECTED** member an opportunity within 10 days to request a hearing.

(3) If the [voting] **ELECTED** member requests a hearing within the 10-day period:

(i) The State Board shall promptly hold a hearing, but a hearing may not be set within 10 days after the State Board sends the [voting] **ELECTED** member a notice of the hearing; and

(ii) The [voting] **ELECTED** member shall have an opportunity to be heard publicly before the State Board in the [voting] **ELECTED** member's own defense, in person or by counsel.

(4) [A voting] **AN ELECTED** member removed under this subsection has the right to a de novo review of the removal by the Circuit Court for Charles County.

~~[(g)]~~ ~~(G)~~ **(H)** (1) The student member of the Charles County Board shall be an 11th or 12th grade student in the Charles County Public School System.

(2) The student member, and an alternate, shall be selected [in accordance with procedures approved by the board. These procedures shall reflect recommendations by and involvement of] **BY** the Charles County Association of Student Councils.

(3) The term of the student member shall be 1 year.

(4) **(I)** The student member [may not vote, but may indicate a preference for or against any question before] **SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER OF** the board.

(II) THE STUDENT MEMBER MAY VOTE ON ALL MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD EXCEPT THOSE RELATING TO:

- 1. HEARINGS ON APPEALS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS;**
- 2. HEARINGS HELD UNDER §§ 4-205 AND 7-305 OF THIS ARTICLE;**
- 3. PERSONNEL MATTERS, INCLUDING THOSE UNDER §§ 6-201 AND 6-202 OF THIS ARTICLE;**
- 4. APPOINTMENT, SALARY, AND EVALUATION OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT;**
- 5. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING DECISIONS;**
- 6. CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGETS; AND**
- 7. SCHOOL CLOSINGS, OPENINGS, AND BOUNDARIES.**

~~¶(5) Unless invited to attend by an affirmative vote of a majority of the county board, the student member may not attend an executive session that relates to special education placements, collective bargaining, or hearings held under § 6-202 of this article.~~ **ANY MATTER FOR WHICH THE STUDENT MEMBER MAY NOT VOTE.¶**

(6) ON A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS, THE COUNTY BOARD MAY DETERMINE, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, WHETHER A MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION IS COVERED BY THE EXCLUSIONARY PROVISIONS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(7) THE STATE BOARD MAY REMOVE THE STUDENT MEMBER FROM THE COUNTY BOARD IN THE SAME MANNER AS AN ELECTED MEMBER.

3-502.

~~**(A) THE MEMBER ELECTED FROM THE COUNTY AT-LARGE SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE COUNTY BOARD.**~~

~~¶(a) (B)~~ The county board shall elect ~~¶a chair and¶~~ a vice chair from among its ~~REMAINING ELECTED~~ members at an annual meeting to be held on the second Tuesday in January.

~~[(b)] (c)~~ If there is a vacancy in the office of chair or vice chair, the county board shall elect a replacement within 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the initial terms of the elected members of the Charles County Board of Education shall expire as follows:

(1) the members elected from ~~school board~~ the county commissioner districts ~~1, 3, and 5~~ and ~~the member elected from the county at large~~ at the general election in November 2022, shall serve for a term of 4 years until a successor is elected and qualifies; and

(2) the ~~members~~ member elected from ~~school board districts 2, 4, and 6~~ the county at large at the general election in November 2022, shall serve for a term of 2 years until a successor is elected and qualifies.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.