

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 823

(Senators Gallion and Hershey)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Cecil County - Board of Education - Member Terms and Compensation

This bill increases the maximum number of terms a member of the Cecil County Board of Education may serve from two to three terms. The bill also increases by \$1,500 the minimum compensation provided to school board members. The minimum compensation for the board president increases from \$4,000 to \$5,500 annually, while the minimum compensation for other voting board members increases from \$3,500 to \$5,000 annually. The salary increases only apply to board members serving in a term of office beginning after the effective date of the bill. Additionally, the bill removes the authority of the Cecil County Commissioners to set board member compensation levels and gives that authority to the county council. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Cecil County expenditures increase by approximately \$2,600 in FY 2023, rising to a total of \$7,500 annually in FY2026 as board member minimum compensation increases take effect.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Cecil County Board of Education consists of five voting members and one nonvoting student member who is not paid. Board members are elected from commissioner districts in staggered four-year terms. The board president receives an annual salary of \$4,000, and other voting board members receive \$3,500 annually. The

president and other board members are entitled to annual compensation for travel and expenses of up to \$1,000.

Chapter 390 of 2003 established a \$4,000 annual salary for the board president and a \$3,500 annual salary for the other voting board members. Prior to that, members of the board served without compensation but were entitled to reimbursement expenses of up to \$1,400 for the board president or \$1,000 for other board members.

The Cecil County Commissioners are authorized to increase the salary of the county board of education. At the November 2010 general election, voters in Cecil County approved a new charter that established an elected county executive and a five-member county council, which went into effect on December 3, 2012. Prior to the new charter, the county was governed by county commissioners.

Local Expenditures: Because the bill increases compensation levels for board members, expenditures for the Cecil County Board of Education increase by \$7,500 once the bill fully takes effect. The bill specifies that higher salary amounts take effect with the next term of office. Three board members terms expire after the 2022 election, and two board members terms expire after the 2024 election. As a result, Cecil County expenditures increase by approximately \$2,600 in fiscal 2023, rising to a total of \$7,500 annually beginning in fiscal 2026 as the minimum compensation increases take effect.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 621 of 2017, passed the House with amendments and was referred to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. The bill was subsequently withdrawn before receiving a committee hearing.

Designated Cross File: HB 692 (Cecil County Delegation) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Cecil County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2021
md/hlb Third Reader - March 17, 2021

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