

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 804

(Senator Edwards)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Garrett County - Memorial Hospital - Board Membership and Meetings**

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This bill decreases, from 15 to 9, the total number of members of the Garrett County Memorial Hospital Board of Governors. The bill also modifies the terms of office of at-large members and reduces the number of required annual board meetings.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill has no material effect on Garrett County operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill reduces, from seven to four, the number of at-large board members, and reduces, from five to three, the number of affirmative votes required to elect an at-large board member. The terms of at-large board members are staggered under the bill so that two are elected one year and the remaining two at-large members are elected the following year. In addition, the bill eliminates the three board members representing county residents that are appointed by the Garrett County Commissioners. Also under the bill, the number of times the board must meet is reduced from at least 10 times annually to at least 6 times annually.

**Current Law:** Garrett County Memorial Hospital is operated by a 15-member Board of Governors comprising 3 county commissioners (or their designees), 3 residents of Garrett County appointed by the county commissioners, the President of the Oakland Town

Council (or the president's designee), 1 member of the hospital medical staff, and 7 at-large members. The medical staff member of the board is elected by the medical staff and subject to approval by majority vote of the board. At-large members are selected for their talents, abilities, and interest in the affairs of the hospital. Selection of an at-large member requires a majority of the qualified votes of the board. The election of an at-large member requires at least five affirmative votes. The length of terms for members of the board are generally two years or, in the case of the county commissioners and the President of the Oakland Town Council, coextensive with their respective terms of office. The terms of at-large members are staggered so that 3 at-large members are elected one year and the remaining 4 at-large members are elected the following year. There are no term limits. The board is required to meet at least 10 times a year.

### *Garrett County Memorial Hospital*

Garrett County Memorial Hospital was established in 1950 and has evolved into an accredited acute care facility in Oakland, Maryland. In 2015, the hospital became affiliated with West Virginia University Medicine and officially became the Garrett Regional Medical Center. The new affiliation allowed the hospital to expand services that are unique to a rural location. Today, the hospital includes 55 inpatient beds, a 4-bed intensive care unit, a 10-bed subacute rehabilitation unit, family centered maternity suite, a 13-bed outpatient surgical unit with a 4-bed surgical suite, and 24/7 emergency services. The hospital is one of the largest employers in Garrett County with more than 500 team members.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1127 (Delegate Beitzel) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Garrett County; Garrett Regional Medical Center; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2021  
md/tso Third Reader - March 17, 2021

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