

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 839
Appropriations

(Frederick County Delegation)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Frederick Community College - Board of Trustees - Meeting and Training
Requirements

This bill establishes a requirement that the Board of Community College Trustees for Frederick County include an opportunity for public comment at each meeting. The board must also make an audio or video recording of each meeting and make the recording available to the public on the board’s website without charge and, to the extent practicable, within two business days after the recording is made. The bill requires the board to maintain in perpetuity a video or audio recording and any minutes of the board. The board may transcribe a video recording if (1) the video recording has been maintained for at least five years and (2) the transcribed video recording is maintained in perpetuity. Additionally, as part of ongoing training and at least every two years, board members must undergo training specific to board governance, structure, responsibilities, and roles. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This bill is directed at Frederick Community College (FCC).

Local Effect: FCC expenditures may increase minimally to record, post board meetings online, and permanently maintain board meeting recordings. FCC can provide the required training and make a recording available to public within existing resources. Frederick County revenues and expenditures are not affected, as funding formulas are not affected. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Board of Community College Trustees for Frederick County consists of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each member must be a resident of Frederick County at the time of appointment. Members serve five-year terms and may not serve more than three consecutive five-year terms. Additionally, a member of the Frederick County Board of Education may not serve on the Board of Community College Trustees. Each member is entitled to \$500 a year for expenses.

State law generally establishes that community college boards have seven members serving staggered six-year terms, with several specified exceptions. Therefore, there are variations in the number and terms of board members. **Appendix 1** shows characteristics of the various boards. With one exception, the boards are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland Senate. For Chesapeake College, the board is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland House of Delegates.

Local Fiscal Effect: If FCC lacks sufficient recording infrastructure, including recording equipment, technology support, and online hosting, costs may increase. However, FCC may minimize expenses by using low-cost options, such as recording on an existing computer and posting to free or low-cost online video platforms. Expenditures may increase to maintain video or audio recordings in perpetuity. While the exact cost of storing recordings is unknown at this time, the overall cost is likely minimal.

Training can likely be handled using existing resources. Members of the board serve without compensation but may be entitled to reimbursement for certain authorized expenses. Any such reimbursement is assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 534 (Frederick County Senators) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Frederick County; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
js/clb

First Reader - March 16, 2026

Third Reader - April 6, 2026

Revised - Amendment(s) - April 6, 2026

Analysis by: Toni Heo

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510

Appendix 1

Selected Community College Board Member Requirements

<u>Community College</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Board Terms (Years)</u>	<u>Term Limits</u>	<u>Residency Requirements</u>
Allegany	7	6	No Limit	None
Anne Arundel	10 ¹	4	3 ²	Yes ³
Baltimore City	9 ¹	6	2 ⁴	Some ⁵
Baltimore	15	5	2 ⁴	See Note ⁶
Carroll	7	6	No Limit	None
Cecil	7	6	No Limit	None
Chesapeake	10	5	3	Yes ⁷
Frederick	7	5	3	Yes ⁸
Garrett	7	6	No Limit	None
Hagerstown	7	6	No Limit	Yes ⁹
Harford	9	5	2 ⁴	Yes ¹⁰
Howard	9	6	No Limit	Some ¹¹
Montgomery	10 ^{1,12}	6	No Limit	Some ¹³
Prince George's	9 ¹	5	2 ⁴	Yes ¹⁴
Southern Maryland	9	5	2 ⁴	Yes ¹⁵
Wor-Wic	7	6	No Limit	None

¹ The board includes a student member serving a one-year term. The student body elects the student board member in Prince George's County.

² Consecutive full terms.

³ All members must be a resident of Anne Arundel County.

⁴ Consecutive terms.

⁵ All members must be a resident of the State. The majority must be residents of Baltimore City.

⁶ Of the members, 1 serves at large and the other 14 serve from the seven councilmanic districts in Baltimore County, 2 from each district.

⁷ Two members from each county that supports Chesapeake College (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot).

⁸ All seven members must be a resident of Frederick County.

⁹ All members must be a resident of Washington County at the time of appointment and maintain residency in Washington County throughout their term of appointment.

¹⁰ All members must be a resident of Harford County for the duration of their term.

¹¹ Of the nine members, at least eight must be residents of Howard County at the time of appointment and maintain residency in Howard County throughout the term of appointment.

¹² A local nominating committee must submit to the Governor the names of two to four candidates per vacancy, from which the Governor must appoint a new member.

¹³ The student member must be a resident of the county.

¹⁴ All members must be a resident of Prince George's County.

¹⁵ Members must be a resident of the State. Each of the southern Maryland counties must be represented by at least three members who are residents of the county.

Source: Annotated Code of Maryland