

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 339 (Senator Lewis Young)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

Maryland School for the Deaf - Membership of Board of Trustees - Alterations

This bill decreases the number of members on the Board of Trustees for the Maryland School for the Deaf from 19 to 13. The bill also increases the minimum number of board members that must be deaf from 6 to 7. Finally, the bill establishes provisions for phasing out 6 board members. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expenditures for the Maryland School for the Deaf for meal costs for quarterly board meetings are expected to decrease. However, any decrease is expected to be minimal.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The terms of the first six appointed board members whose terms expire after the effective date of the bill will terminate at the end of the last day of each respective term. On the termination of an appointed member, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, must prioritize appointing members who are deaf, in accordance with the bill.

Current Law: The governance of the Maryland School for the Deaf is vested in its Board of Trustees, which consists of 19 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. At least 6 board members are required to be deaf, and

each board member must be a resident of the State, a member of the general public, and have a demonstrated and active interest in the education of deaf children. Each geographic region of the State must be represented by at least 1 board member. The term of a board member is six years, and the terms of members are staggered. At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A board member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1052 (Delegate Feldmark) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland School for the Deaf; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2026
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