

**March 27, 2023****Testimony on SB 31****Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Student Members and Task Force to  
Study Compensation and Student Members  
Education, Energy, and the Environment****Position: Favorable**

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 31: establishing voting rights and the selection process for the Student Member of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and the establishment of a Task Force to study compensation and the role of the Baltimore City Student member.

Common Cause Maryland prioritizes civic engagement and transparency. This bill sits at the cross section between the two priorities.

In terms of civic engagement, the Student Member position offers the student hands on experience in working at a local government level and voting on several matters before the board. This position acts as a foray into further civic participation. The campaigning and election process for the position across high schools in Baltimore City also is in practice preparing them for how to campaign for future positions.

In terms of transparency, the establishment of the Task Force to study the position and the need for compensation is a logical step in ensuring the effectiveness of the position and what can be improved. We support sharing the results of the task force within the next fiscal year so the Governor and Maryland General Assembly can see the studies of possible compensation, adding a second Student Member, and recommendations on how to receive proposed compensation through the Baltimore City fiscal budget through 2025.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.