



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

15 West Gude Drive ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: House Bill 1207

TITLE: Howard and Montgomery County - Board of Education – Student Member Compensation MC 7-25

DATE: April 1, 2025

POSITION: Support

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 1207.

This bill, as amended, permits the student member of the board (SMOB) to receive their compensation as a scholarship, stipend, or combination of the two. Current law provides for a scholarship only. Permitting the SMOB to select the manner in which they will receive compensation increases access to this important position on the Board of Education.

Under current law, where the compensation is limited to a scholarship for higher education costs, students who do not plan to pursue post-secondary education are disincentivized to run for SMOB because they will receive no compensation for their work. Further, some students either have to, or choose to, work to earn income during high school. The demands associated with being a SMOB would make it difficult, if not impossible, to maintain additional employment. This, again, reduces the group of potential candidates for the position. By switching the compensation method to a scholarship or stipend, or a combination of the two, we improve equity and open the student member role up to additional interested candidates. The Board supports this important goal and step forward.

House Bill 1207 increases equity and access to the role of student member of the board and, as a result, Montgomery County Board of Education **supports House Bill 1207**.