

HB1207.Senate Testimony_Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

Uploaded by: Lorig Charkoudian

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1207 - MONTGOMERY COUNTY - BOARD OF EDUCATION - COMPENSATION MC 7-25

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN

APRIL 1ST, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

As Maryland's largest school district, Montgomery County has a significant workload for its Board of Education (BOE). With 211 schools and 159,671 students (as of September, 2024)¹, it is important that our board members can dedicate their time to running the school system effectively and to the maximum benefit of our students, staff, and families. In recent years the challenges have grown.

The Montgomery County Board of Education (MC BOE) includes a Student Member of the Board (SMOB). In Montgomery County, the SMOB has full voting rights, and is responsible for voting on the same issues as the seven adult, non-student members of the BOE—excepting only negative personnel actions. The SMOB has a unique responsibility—to represent the views and concerns of Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) students—and unique challenges—to balance schoolwork with demanding MC BOE duties that may equal those of a full-time job. In recognition of the significant commitment of time and significant responsibilities required of all full voting members of the BOE, since 2016, at the end of their term, the SMOB has received a college scholarship, currently worth \$25,000.

The SMOB is an essential member of the MC BOE who is also a full-time student. Hence, a student member of the BOE will find it all but impossible to hold after school or part-time employment. As a result of the demands, many capable and interested students do not seek election to the BOE; many district students provide essential, regular financial contributions to their families and cannot sacrifice part-time employment in order to serve on the BOE. In addition, while not all potential SMOBs may choose to pursue higher education, the current compensation only rewards those SMOBs who do. HB1207 will address these shortcomings in current SMOB compensation. HB1207 will allow the SMOB to elect to receive the value of the SMOB scholarship as a monthly stipend, as an end-of-term scholarship, or as a combination of the two. In all cases, SMOB compensation may not exceed the salary of the non-student members of the BOE. This approach to student member compensation will create a more equitable approach to compensation for the SMOB and enable students with family financial responsibilities to participate. SMOB may also be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with official duties.

Therefore, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1207.

HB 1207 - MoCo_Elrich_FAV (GA 25) (Senate).pdf

Uploaded by: Marc Elrich

Position: FAV



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

April 1, 2025

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 1207, *Montgomery County - Board of Education – Student Member
Compensation MC 7-25*

Support

Under current State law, the Student Member of the Montgomery County Board of Education is currently entitled to receive a scholarship for higher education expenses equal to the highest annual resident undergraduate tuition, fees, and room and board that is charged at a four-year public higher education institution within the University System of Maryland. However, State law also places a \$25,000 cap on compensation for the Student Member of the Board (SMOB). The SMOB serving for the 2024-2025 school year is subject to the cap and will receive a \$25,000 scholarship.

The bill maintains the current SMOB compensation amount discussed above but gives the student discretion to choose all or some of the compensation as a monthly stipend.

I support the bill and respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Montgomery County Board of Education Testimony_HB

Uploaded by: Patricia Ursprung

Position: FAV



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**.

Written Testimony (Amyah Davis) 03.28.25.pdf

Uploaded by: Amyah Davis

Position: UNF

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Ways and Means Committee
By Amyah Davis, Undergraduate Studies Representative
HB1207
March 28, 2025
UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Mark S. Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

My name is Amyah Davis, and I am an Undergraduate Studies Representative at the University of Maryland. I am writing today to urge this committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 1207.

This bill proposes significant salary increases for members of the Montgomery County Board of Education, which raises several concerns. While fair compensation is important, these drastic increases present financial and ethical challenges that outweigh the potential benefits.

First, the proposed salary adjustments create an unnecessary financial burden on taxpayers and the county budget. With compensation increases of \$62,000 for elected board members and \$124,000 for the board president, the allocation of funds toward board salaries could divert resources away from essential educational priorities, such as school programs, teacher salaries, and student services.

Second, the bill lacks justification for such steep salary increases. Board members serve in governance roles, and their responsibilities have not significantly changed to warrant such dramatic pay raises. Without clear accountability measures or performance metrics, this increase appears excessive.

Additionally, this proposal raises concerns about equity. Many educators and school staff members continue to face stagnant wages, and prioritizing board salaries over direct educational investments undermines efforts to address pressing issues in public education.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on this bill. Our focus should remain on improving educational outcomes and ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed toward students, teachers, and schools.

Sincerely, Amyah Davis
Undergraduate Studies Representative
University of Maryland
University of Maryland, College Park
3912 Denton Service Lane, College Park, MD 20742
amyah13davis@gmail.com