
By: Delegates Cummings, C. Mitchell, Kirk, and Pitkin

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland School for the Blind - Board of Directors**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a State Board of Directors of the Maryland School for
4 the Blind; specifying the status and composition of the Board and the terms of the
5 members of the Board; providing for the powers and duties of the Board; defining
6 a certain term; and generally relating to the establishment of a State Board of
7 Directors of the Maryland School for the Blind.

8 BY adding to

9 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
10 Section 18-310
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

16 18-310.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
18 THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

19 (B) THERE IS A STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARYLAND SCHOOL
20 FOR THE BLIND.

21 (C) THE BOARD IS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF
22 THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

23 (D) (1) THE BOARD IS COMPOSED OF SEVEN MEMBERS.

24 (2) OF THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

25 (I) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM THE SENATE OF
26 MARYLAND BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

27 (II) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM THE MARYLAND
28 HOUSE OF DELEGATES BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

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1 (III) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM THE STATE BOARD
2 OF EDUCATION BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION;

3 (IV) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM THE FINANCE
4 OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
5 SCHOOL; AND

6 (V) THREE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR
7 WITH THE CONSENT OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND.

8 (3) OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD APPOINTED BY THE
9 GOVERNOR:

10 (I) ONE SHALL BE A PARENT OF A STUDENT AT THE MARYLAND
11 SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND; AND

12 (II) TWO SHALL BE BLIND PERSONS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC
13 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES PROVIDED BY THE
14 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF MARYLAND.

15 (E) BEFORE TAKING OFFICE, EACH APPOINTEE TO THE BOARD SHALL TAKE
16 THE OATH REQUIRED BY ARTICLE I, § 9 OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.

17 (F) (1) THE TERM OF EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD IS 2 YEARS.

18 (2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE STAGGERED AS
19 REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 1, 1996.

20 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A
21 SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

22 (4) AT THE END OF THE TERM OF A MEMBER OR ON THE RESIGNATION
23 OR REMOVAL OF A MEMBER, THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR THAT MEMBER
24 SHALL APPOINT A NEW MEMBER TO THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH
25 SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

26 (5) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE A MEMBER FOR INCOMPETENCE,
27 MISCONDUCT, OR FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION.

28 (G) FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS, THE BOARD SHALL SELECT A CHAIRMAN.

29 (H) (1) FOUR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE A QUORUM.

30 (2) THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES AND PLACES OF ITS
31 MEETINGS.

32 (3) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

33 (I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION; BUT

34 (II) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
35 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

36 (I) THE BOARD SHALL:

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1 (1) DEVELOP AND APPROVE THE BUDGET REQUEST THAT THE
2 MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND SUBMITS ANNUALLY TO THE SECRETARY OF
3 EDUCATION; AND

4 (2) ADMINISTER AND OVERSEE THE USE OF THE FUNDS PROVIDED IN
5 ANNUAL STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial
7 members of the Board of Directors of the Maryland School for the Blind appointed by the
8 Governor under Article 41, § 18-310(d)(3), as added by Section 1 of this Act, are as
9 follows:

10 (1) the member of the Board of Directors who is a parent of a student at the
11 Maryland School for the Blind shall serve a term of one year; and

12 (2) one of the two blind persons from the general public who is appointed
13 from a list of nominees provided by the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
14 shall serve a term of one year.

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 1996.