

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 60 (Delegate Boschert)

Ways and Means

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**Education - Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Appointment of Members**

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This bill alters the method of selecting members to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education by requiring the County Executive, with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the county council, to appoint members from a list submitted by the School Board Nominating Convention of Anne Arundel County. One board member must be appointed from each of the county's seven councilmanic districts. The selection of the student member is not affected.

Board members are not eligible for retirement or other benefits extended to employees of the county board or of the county or to elected officials of the county or State. The bill prohibits an individual employed by the federal, State, or county government, or an individual employed professionally in the field of education, from becoming a board member. In addition, the county council must adopt procedures for ratification and adoption of the bylaws of the county board. The bill also specifies certain requirements for the school board nominating convention.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill would not affect Anne Arundel County finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Anne Arundel County Board of Education consists of seven members appointed by the Governor for a five-year term and one student member elected by peers in the manner selected by the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils. The student member serves a one-year term and must be an enrolled senior high school student. The Governor appoints the seven board members as follows: three from the county at large; one each from legislative district 31, 32, and 33; and one from legislative district 27B or 30.

**Background:** The Anne Arundel County Public School System does not provide retirement or other employee benefits to school board members. Board members are entitled to travel and expense reimbursements, which total approximately \$19,200 annually.

The School Board Nominating Convention of Anne Arundel County is responsible for nominating a list of candidates to fill positions on the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. The nominating process involves four primary components: (1) convention delegates are appointed; (2) individuals interested in becoming a member of the board of education submit candidacy forms with the nominating convention; (3) hearings are scheduled to review candidate's credentials; and (4) delegates vote for candidates. In order for an individual to file as a candidate for a school board seat, the individual must receive the endorsement of a community group.

The nominating convention sends application forms to community groups requesting individuals to become delegates to the nominating convention. A non-profit and non-partisan organization can send up to four delegates to the school board nominating convention. Eligible organizations include parent-teacher organizations, churches and synagogues, and community service groups. On average, between 150 and 250 delegates participate at the convention's election. Pursuant to this bill, a delegate to the nominating convention would not need group sponsorship in order to participate at the convention.

In April, the nominating convention schedules three hearings at which the credentials of school board candidates are reviewed. In order to participate in the convention's election, delegates must attend one of the three hearings. In May, the convention holds an election for school board candidates. Delegates to the nominating convention may currently participate in the election for board members representing both the at-large seats and any of the legislative districts seats. Pursuant to this bill, a delegate can only participate in the election of the board member seat in the councilmanic district in which both the candidate and the delegate resides. The names of the two candidates with the most votes are submitted to the Governor. The Governor can either appoint one of the two individuals on the nominating convention's list or someone else. Except in three cases, since 1979 the Governor has appointed board members from the nominating convention's list.

In Maryland, members of local boards of education are either appointed by the Governor, as the case in ten counties, or are elected by registered voters, as the case in 13 counties. The New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners is jointly appointed by the Mayor and Governor from a list of candidates submitted by the State board. The following exhibit shows the selection method of board members in each county.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Selection Method of School Board Members**

<b>Appointed By Governor</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Appointed Jointly By Governor and Mayor</b>
Anne Arundel	Allegany	Baltimore City
Baltimore	Calvert	
Caroline	Carroll	
Cecil	Charles	
Dorchester	Frederick	
Harford	Garrett	
Queen Anne's	Howard	
Talbot	Kent	
Wicomico	Montgomery	
Worcester	Prince George's	
	St. Mary's	
	Somerset	
	Washington	

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2000

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