

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 33      (Delegates Leopold and D'Amato)  
Ways and Means

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**Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Selection Process**

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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 the County Council, to appoint board members from a list submitted by the School Board Nominating Convention of Anne Arundel County. The selection of the student member is not affected.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Changing the appointment process of school board members would not impact 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 five-year terms 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.

**Background:** 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 credentials of board of education candidates; and (4) delegates vote for candidates.

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. In order for an individual to file as a candidate to the school board, the individual must receive the endorsement of a community group.

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. 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 is the case in ten counties, or are elected by registered voters, as is 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.

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

<u>Appointed By Governor</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Appointed Jointly By Governor and Mayor</u>
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:** This bill was introduced in the 1996 session as HB 173 and received a favorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee. No action was taken by the full House.

**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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