

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1311

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Prince George's County - Board of Education - Districts and Membership
PG 414-01

This bill alters the composition of the elected members of the Prince George's County Board of Education. Four members will be elected from the county at-large and five members will be elected from five new school board districts established by the bill. New members will be elected at the November 2002 general election and will take office December 4, 2002.

The bill is effective June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Prince George's County Board of Elections could make the necessary administrative and procedural changes with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There are ten members on the Prince George's County Board of Education, nine elected members from nine school board districts and one student member.

Background: Two recent audits highlighted some issues within the Prince George's County Public School System. The first, a performance audit mandated by the General Assembly, made 297 wide-ranging recommendations, including improvement of the trust and communication between system leaders, increased use of information technology, and the restructuring of specific divisions within the school system. The audit identified 75 recommendations with a fiscal impact. Chapter 565 of 1998, the School Accountability Funding for Excellence (SAFE) legislation, created the Prince George's County Public Schools Management Oversight Panel to monitor the school system's implementation of the audit recommendations.

A second audit examining expenditures by Board of Education members was completed and submitted to the board in September 2000. The audit uncovered numerous examples of misused funds and made over 30 recommendations, including the full implementation of a prohibition on the use of board funds for alcoholic beverages, the development of guidelines prohibiting the use of board credit cards for personal needs, the establishment of procedures for expense reimbursements, and repayment of improperly used funds. The Management Oversight Panel recommended that the board accept all of the audit recommendations and suggested that the board strengthen its code of ethics.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 19, 2001
cm/hlb Revised – House Third Reader – April 5, 2001

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