

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 124

(Delegates Bozman and Conway)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Worcester County - Board of Education - Eligibility to Serve**

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This bill allows a school bus contractor under the authority of the Worcester County Board of Education to serve as a member of the county board.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill would not materially impact Worcester County operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An individual subject to the authority of a local board of education is not eligible to serve as a member of the board.

**Background:** In the 1999-2000 school year, local boards of education throughout Maryland used more than 6,500 vehicles to transport students, including approximately 3,500 that were publicly-owned and 3,000 operated by private student transportation contractors. Worcester County used 69 contractual buses in that academic year and no publicly-owned school buses.

**Small Business Effect:** Local school boards, with the help of their local school superintendents, recommend school budgets to the county government. The Worcester County public school system uses contracted school bus services exclusively. It is possible that a school bus contractor serving on the Worcester County Board of Education could influence opportunities available to small school bus contracting companies that are pursuing contracts with the county. It is assumed, however, that local ethics policies governing conflicts of interest would temper the influence that a school bus contractor could have on the student transportation budget in Worcester County.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 2003  
mam/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 17, 2003

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