

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 527

(Howard County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Howard County - Board of Education - Membership Ho. Co. 9-04

This bill increases the membership of the Howard County Board of Education from five to seven and provides for staggered terms for the two additional members.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County expenditures would increase by \$23,900 in FY 2007 and by \$41,000 annually beginning in FY 2008 to support two additional board members.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Two additional board members would be elected in 2006 for a term of four years. To provide for staggered terms between the two additional members, the bill provides that the individual elected as a member who receives the lowest number of votes in the 2006 election will serve for a term of two years.

As a result of the bill, two members would be elected in the 2004 election, five members in the 2006 election. Following the 2006 election, three members would be elected every four years beginning in 2008 and four members would be elected every four years beginning in 2010.

Current Law: Members of the Howard County Board of Education serve terms of four years and are elected from the county at large.

Background: Twelve counties currently elect members of local boards of education and 10 counties and Baltimore City have boards comprised of appointed members. The Worcester County Board of Education is in the process of changing from an appointed board to an elected board, which will be complete following the 2004 general election. **Exhibit 1** shows the method of selecting school board members in each local jurisdiction.

A referendum to change the Cecil County Board of Education to an elected board will be on the 2004 general election ballot. The Dorchester County and Prince George's County Boards of Education will revert to elected members following the 2006 general election.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local expenditures in Howard County would increase by an estimated \$23,900 in fiscal 2007. This accounts for the cost of supporting two additional board members who would take office in December 2006. The estimate includes \$13,000 in compensation and benefits and \$7,500 in support costs per member for seven months. The full impact of the bill would be higher in future years at an estimated \$41,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2008.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2004
n/hlb

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Exhibit 1

Local Board of Education Membership

County	Full Voting Members	Elected Members			Student Member(s)	Years of Terms
		Appointed Members	County At Large	From Districts		
Allegany	5	0	5	0	1	4
Anne Arundel	7	7	0	0	1	5
Baltimore City	9	9	0	0	1	3
Baltimore	11	11	0	0	1	5
Calvert	5	0	2	3	1	4
Caroline	5	5	0	0	0	5
Carroll	5	0	5	0	1	4
Cecil ¹	5	5	0	0	1	5
Charles	7	0	7	0	1	4
Dorchester ²	6	6	0	0	2	5
Frederick	7	0	7	0	1	4
Garrett	5	0	2	3	1	4
Harford	7	7	0	0	1	5
Howard	5	0	5	0	0	4
Kent	5	0	5	0	0	6
Montgomery	7	0	2	5	1	4
Prince George's ³	9	9	0	0	1	4
Queen Anne's	5	5	0	0	0	5
St. Mary's	5	0	1	4	1	4
Somerset	5	0	0	5	2	4
Talbot	5	5	0	0	1	5
Washington	7	0	7	0	1	4
Wicomico	7	7	0	0	0	5
Worcester ⁴	7	3	0	4	3	4

¹ A referendum to change the Cecil County Board of Education to an elected board will be on the 2004 general election

² The Dorchester County Board of Education is changing from an appointed board to an elected board. The transition will begin at the 2004 general election and be complete following the 2006 general election.

³ In 2006 the Prince George's County Board of Education will revert to an elected board.

⁴ The Worcester County Board of Education is in the process of changing from an appointed board to an elected board. The process will be complete following the 2004 general election.

Source: Department of Legislative Services, November 2003