

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 857
Ways and Means

(Delegate Carter, *et al.*)

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Membership

This bill increases, from 10 to 15, the number of members serving on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and alters the selection process from an appointed board to an appointed-elected board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures would increase by \$39,375 in FY 2007, and \$67,500 annually thereafter for school commissioner compensation. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Specifically, the bill: (1) provides that five voting members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, instead of nine, are to be jointly appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore and the Governor; (2) provides that one voting member (seven total) is to be elected from each of the city's education districts, and one member elected from the city at large; (3) provides that two student members of the board are to be appointed; (4) establishes Board of Education districts; (5) provides that the Chairman of the Board is entitled to annual compensation of \$7,500 and other voting members, except the student members, are entitled to annual compensation of \$5,000; all members are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other expenses; (6) increases the

term of the voting member from three to four years; (7) requires the Mayor and the Governor to appoint specified board members by November 15, 2006; and (8) provides that the terms of the appointed members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners who are serving on October 1, 2004, terminate December 3, 2006.

Current Law: The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners consists of 10 members – nine voting members appointed jointly by the Governor and Mayor of Baltimore and one student member. Voting members serve for three years and are not entitled to compensation. The student member serves for one year.

The compensation of a public officer may not be increased or decreased during a term of office unless the term is more than four years.

Background: The selection methods and number of school board members for the 24 local boards are shown in **Appendix 1**.

Local Fiscal Effect: It is presumed that eight voting members of the Baltimore Board of School Commissioners would be elected in November 2006, as that is the first general election scheduled that would allow for Baltimore City election procedures based on the bill's October 1, 2004 effective date. The bill requires elected members to begin serving their terms on the first Monday in December following the election; therefore, it is assumed that they would take office in December 2006. Five appointed members are required to be appointed by November 15, 2006. It is assumed that the board would exist in its current configuration, in terms of the number of members, until December 2006 because the bill provides that the terms of board members serving as of October 1, 2004 terminate as of December 3, 2006.

The Chairman of the Board is entitled to annual compensation of \$7,500 and the other voting members (12 in all) are entitled to \$5,000 compensation annually. As a result, it is estimated that Baltimore City expenditures would increase by approximately by \$39,375 in fiscal 2007, which reflects 7/12 of a year. Expenditures would increase by \$67,500 annually thereafter. Baltimore City advises that expense reimbursements for all members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 22, 2004
ncs/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	7	7	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 ballot.

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