

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1357

(Delegates Haddaway and Eckardt)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs

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**Talbot County - Board of Education - Selection of Members - Straw Ballot**

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This bill submits to referendum the question of whether the Talbot County Board of Education should remain an appointed board or change to an elected board. The referendum must be on the ballot in Talbot County for the 2004 general election.

The bill is effective July 1, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Requiring that a referendum be submitted to Talbot County voters will not affect local finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Talbot County Board of Education consists of seven voting members appointed by the Governor and one nonvoting student member. Voting members serve five-year terms, and the student member serves a one-year term. With the approval of the Governor, the State Superintendent of Schools may remove a board member for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, willful neglect of duty, or failure to attend board meetings. If one of the seven voting members vacates the position, the Governor appoints a replacement.

**Background:** The Talbot County Board of Education is one of 11 appointed school boards in the State. Another 12 local boards of education are elected, and one, the Worcester County board, is in the process of transitioning from an appointed board to an elected board, which will be complete following the 2004 general election. The selection methods and number of school board members for the 24 local boards are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 676 (Senator Colburn) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 2004  
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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 <sup>1</sup>	5	5	0	0	1	5
Charles	7	0	7	0	1	4
Dorchester <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	7	3	0	4	3	4

<sup>1</sup> A referendum to change the Cecil County Board of Education to an elected board will be on the 2004 general election ballot.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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