F3 5lr0911

By: Prince George's County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1	ΛNI	ΛCT	concerning
1	$\Delta I I$	лСі	Concerning

2 Prince George's County - Board of Education - Election of Members 3 PG 409-05

4 FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law relating to the composition of

- 5 certain school districts in Prince George's County; requiring the members of the
- Prince George's County Board of Education to be elected from certain 6
- councilmanic districts; requiring candidates to live in certain councilmanic 7
- 8 districts and be registered voters; providing for the initial terms of the elected
- 9 members of the county Board; requiring that a vacancy on the county Board be
- filled by a certain election if the vacancy occurs within a certain time period; 10
- requiring that certain vacancies on the county Board remain vacant under 11
- certain circumstances; requiring certain special elections to take place within a 12
- 13 certain number of days under certain provisions of law; authorizing a member of
- 14 the county Board to take a certain unpaid leave of absence to be a candidate in
- 15 a primary election; providing the limits on an unpaid leave of absence; requiring
- the term of the chair and vice chair to be a certain number of years; providing for 16
- 17 the requirements of a public notice of certain meetings of the county Board;
- 18 providing that the county Board or a subdivision of the county Board may only
- 19 meet in executive session on certain issues; requiring the county Board or a
- 20
- subdivision of the county Board to take certain actions before and after an 21 executive session; limiting an executive session to certain topics; altering the
- 22 requirements for a quorum of the county Board; requiring the presence of a
- 23 quorum of the county Board in order for the county Board to take any action;
- requiring that a certain comprehensive review of a certain school system include 24
- 25 a review of certain issues related to decentralization; requiring certain
- documents and records relating to employment terms and financial 26
- 27 compensation of certain officers in a certain school system be public records;
- making certain technical corrections; providing for the effective date of certain 28
- 29 provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the election of members of the
- 30 Prince George's County Board of Education.
- 31 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 32 Article - Education
- 33 Section 4-402, 4-403, 4-404, and 4-405

1	Annotated Code of Maryland (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)					
3 4 5	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Chapter 289 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002 Section 17					
6 7 8 9 10 11	BY repealing Article - Education Section 3-1001 Annotated Code of Maryland (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement) (As enacted by Section 7 of Chapter 289 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)					
13 14 15 16 17	BY repealing Article - Education Section 3-1005 Annotated Code of Maryland (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement) (As enacted by Chapter 289 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)					
20 21 22 23 24	Section 3-1002, 3-1003, 3-1004, 3-1006, 3-1007, and 3-1008 Annotated Code of Maryland (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)					
25 26	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:					
27	Article - Education					
28	4-402.					
29	(a) There is a Chief Executive Officer of the Board.					
30	(b) The Chief Executive Officer shall:					
31 32	(1) Be responsible for the overall administration of the Prince George's County public school system;					
33	(2) Report directly to the Board; and					

1 2	(3) following functions:	Designat	te individuals with primary responsibility for each of the
3	public school system;	(i)	Management and administration of the Prince George's County
5 6	the students in the Prin	(ii) nce Georg	Assessment and accountability of the academic performance of ge's County public school system;
7 8	with federal and State	(iii) law;	Provision of services to students with disabilities in accordance
9 10	reform; and	(iv)	Development and implementation of initiatives for educational
11		(v)	Professional hiring and development.
			the provisions of subsection (b)(3) of this section, the see Board shall be held accountable for the delegated
17	salary of the Chief Ex	ecutive (employ the Chief Executive Officer and establish the Officer at an amount commensurate with the ior positions of responsibility of the Chief Executive
21	minimum, that continue the academic perform	ued emplance of t	contract of the Chief Executive Officer shall provide, at a loyment is contingent on demonstrable improvement in he students in the Prince George's County public school agement of the Prince George's County public schools.
23	(f) The TEF	RM OF T	HE initial contract and any renewal may not exceed 4 years.
26	CONTRACT AND A	NY DOC	T OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S EMPLOYMENT CUMENT OR RECORDS RELATING TO THE TERMS OF THE ER'S FINANCIAL COMPENSATION OR TERMS OF PUBLIC RECORD.
28	4-403.		
29 30	(a) There is school system who sh		Academic Officer in the Prince George's County public
	(1) curriculum taught and school system;		onsible for the development and implementation of the ruction provided in the Prince George's County public
34 35	(2) programs and best pra		ith the Chief Accountability Officer to ensure that effective e utilized in the curriculum; and
36	(3)	Report d	lirectly to the Chief Executive Officer.

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 1117 1 (b) The Chief Executive Officer shall, subject to the approval of the Board: 2 (1) Select the Chief Academic Officer; and 3 (2) Establish the salary of the Chief Academic Officer. 4 The employment contract of the Chief Academic Officer shall provide, at a (c) 5 minimum, that continued employment is contingent upon a demonstrable 6 improvement in academic performance of the students in the Prince George's County 7 public school system. 8 [The Chief Academic Officer is not a public official under the Constitution (d) 9 or the laws of the State.] THE FULL TEXT OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER'S 10 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND ANY DOCUMENT OR RECORDS RELATING TO THE 11 TERMS OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER'S FINANCIAL COMPENSATION OR TERMS 12 OF EMPLOYMENT SHALL BE PUBLIC RECORD. 13 4-404. There is a Chief Financial Officer in the Prince George's County public 14 (a) 15 school system who shall: 16 Be responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the (1)fiscal affairs of the Prince George's County public school system; and 18 (2) Report directly to the Chief Executive Officer. 19 (b) The Chief Executive Officer shall, subject to the approval of the Board: 20 (1) Select the Chief Financial Officer; and 21 (2)Establish the salary of the Chief Financial Officer. 22 The employment contract of the Chief Financial Officer shall provide that (c) continued employment is contingent on the effective fiscal management of the Prince George's County public schools. 25 [The Chief Financial Officer is not a public officer under the Constitution 26 or the laws of the State.] THE FULL TEXT OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S 27 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND ANY DOCUMENT OR RECORDS RELATING TO THE

28 TERMS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S FINANCIAL COMPENSATION OR TERMS

There is a Chief Accountability Officer in the Prince George's County

Perform ongoing research and evaluation regarding the systemic

29 OF EMPLOYMENT SHALL BE PUBLIC RECORD.

32 public school system who shall:

(1) 34 reform and student achievement;

30 4-405.

31

33

1 (2) Work with the Chief Academic Officer to ensure that effective 2 programs and best practices are utilized in the curriculum; and 3 (3) Report directly to the Chief Executive Officer. 4 (b) The Chief Executive Officer shall: 5 (1) Select the Chief Accountability Officer; and 6 (2) Establish the salary of the Chief Accountability Officer. 7 (c) [The Chief Accountability Officer is not a public officer under the 8 Constitution or the laws of the State, 1 THE FULL TEXT OF THE CHIEF 9 ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICERS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND ANY DOCUMENT OR RECORDS RELATING TO THE TERMS OF THE CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICERS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND ANY DOCUMENT OR 18 PUBLIC RECORD. RELATING TO THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT SHALL BE PUBLIC RECORD. 12 Chapter 289 of the Acts of 2002 13 SECTION 17. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before June 1, 4006, a consultant shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Prince George's County public school system and the New Prince George's County Board of Education (New Board). The New Board and the Maryland State Department of Education shall jointly select and equally share the cost of the consultant and determine the scope of 18 the comprehensive review. At a minimum, the comprehensive review shall evaluate both the educational and management reforms made by the New Board and shall determine whether there has been improvement in the management of and student 12 achievement in the public schools in Prince George's County. The review may include recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the organizational structure of 23 the Prince George's County public school system, in addition to recommendations to 24 the New Board concerning modifications to the mater plan adopted in accordance With this Act, ADDITIONALLY, THE REVIEW SHALL CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND DECISION-MAKING COULD BE DECENTRALIZED, INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF THE OPTIMUM NUMBER OF 28 REGIONS, WAYS TO MINIMIZE ANY POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE BUDGETARY IMPACT, AND WATA TRESOURCES, SERVICE									
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	38	district and p	precinct b	ooundaries as reviewed and certified by the Prince George's					

2	and as those	s Bureau of the Census as part of the 2000 Census Redistricting Data Program as those election district and precinct lines are specifically shown on the Public 94-171 census block maps provided by the United States Bureau of the Census.			
4	(b)	School	board district I consists of:		
5		(1)	Election district 1;		
6		(2)	Election district 10;		
7		(3)	Election district 14, precincts 2, 7, and 8;		
8		(4)	Election district 20, precincts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 through 11;		
9		(5)	Election district 21, precincts 3, 4, 6 through 11, 13, 14, and 16; and		
10 11		(6) ensus tra	That part of election district 14, precinct 9 that consists of the cts and blocks:		
12			(i) Census tract 8004.01, blocks 1000 through 1003; and		
	1020 throug		(ii) Census tract 8004.06, blocks 1000 through 1002, 1011, 1012, 1999 through 2003, 2006 through 2010, 2017, 2023 through 2027, 3000 through 3014, 3017, 3018, and 3068.		
16	(c)	School	board district II consists of:		
17		(1)	Election district 2, precincts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10;		
18		(2)	Election district 16;		
19		(3)	Election district 17;		
20		(4)	Election district 19; and		
21		(5)	Election district 21, precincts 1, 2, 5, 12, 15, and 17.		
22	(d)	School	board district III consists of:		
23		(1)	Election district 2, precincts 4 and 9;		
24 25	through 23;	(2)	Election district 6, precincts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, and 19		
26		(3)	Election district 13, precincts 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17;		
27		(4)	Election district 15, precinct 2;		
28		(5)	Election district 18; and		
29		(6)	Election district 20, precincts 3, 4, and 8.		

One] NINE ELECTED MEMBERS AND ONE student member selected

29

(3)

30 under subsection [(f)(2)] (E)(2) of this section.

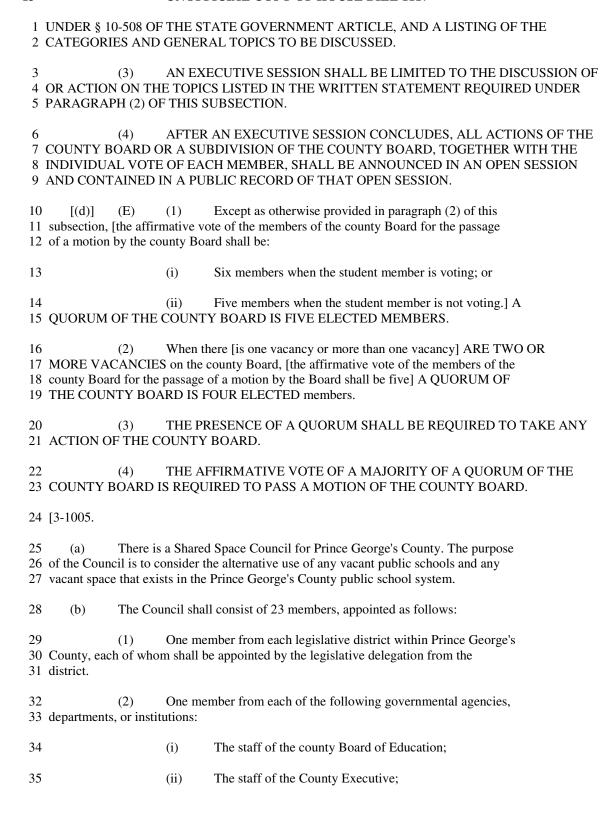
			t least 3 y	date for the county Board shall be a resident of Prince years and a registered voter of the county before the THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL BE ELECTED:
4 5	SUBSECTIO	ON (F) O		AT THE GENERAL ELECTION EVERY 4 YEARS AS REQUIRED BY ECTION; AND
6 7	DISTRICTS	BY THE	(II) E VOTER	ONE MEMBER FROM EACH OF THE NINE COUNCILMANIC S OF THAT COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT.
10	the school be	oard distr	county Borict the ca	e time of filing as a candidate for election, each candidate pard representing a school board district shall reside in an indidate seeks to represent.] FROM A COUNCILMANIC SIDENT OF THAT DISTRICT AND A REGISTERED VOTER.
12 13	member:	(3)	An electe	ed county Board member shall forfeit the office if the
16		ember wa	as elected	[In the case of a member elected to represent a school board in the [school board] COUNCILMANIC district from I, unless this change is caused by a change in the
18			(ii)	Fails to be a registered voter of the county.
19 20		(4) rnment d		y Board member may not hold another office of profit in member's term.
	a school boar		t] shall be	cted member of the county Board [for a position representing e nominated by the registered voters of the member's NIC district.
24	[(d)	Member	s of the P	Prince George's County Board shall be elected:
25 26	this section;	(1) and	At the ge	eneral election every 4 years as required by subsection (g) of
27		(2)	By the re	egistered voters of the entire county.]
30			period be	If a candidate for the county Board dies or withdraws the eginning with the date of the primary and ending 70 eral election, the Board of Supervisors of Elections
				Replace the name of the deceased or withdrawn candidate on on with the name of the candidate who received the n the primary election; or
35 36	allow other J	persons to		If a contested primary was not held, reopen the filing process to andidates.

3		of Supervame of an	Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (ii) of this risors of Elections shall add to the ballot for the y person who files as a candidate in accordance with tion.
	candidates to the ballo election.	(ii) ot for the	The Board of Supervisors of Elections may not add additional general election within 70 days before the date of the
	[(f)] (E) student in the Prince (in office.		The student member shall be an eleventh or twelfth grade County public school system during the student's term
13 14 15 16	Student Governments administrative offices student concerns, and delegates to the regio	ion meetings. Nominates of all put the officental association	ble student shall file a nomination form at least 2 weeks ng of the Prince George's Regional Association of ation forms shall be made available in the blic senior high schools in the county, the office of e of the president of the regional association. The iation annually shall elect the student member to the eting to be held each school year.
18 19	(3) those relating to:	The stud	ent member may vote on all matters before the Board except
20		(i)	Capital and operating budgets;
21		(ii)	School closings, reopenings, and boundaries;
22		(iii)	Collective bargaining decisions;
23		(iv)	Student disciplinary matters;
24 25	under § 6-202(a) of the	(v) his article	Teacher and administrator disciplinary matters as provided ; and
26		(vi)	Other personnel matters.
29		ty Board,	firmative vote of a majority of A QUORUM OF the elected the Board may determine if a matter before the Board dent member may not vote on under paragraph (3) of
33 34	not attend an executiv	ELECTE ve session	nvited to attend by an affirmative vote of a majority OF A D MEMBERS of the county Board, the student member may a that relates to hearings on appeals of special is held under § 6-202(a) of this article, or collective
36 37	(6) may establish proced		ce George's Regional Association of Student Governments he election of the student member of the county Board.

		nments ar	cedures established by the Prince George's Regional re subject to the approval of the elected
6		nember se	CCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS erves for a term of 4 years beginning on the first 's election and until the member's successor is
8 9	(2) THE T	ERMS O	F THE ELECTED MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS
12	TOTAL VOTES, AS DETER	RMINED BY THE	DUR ELECTED MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED THE LOWEST BY THE FINAL VOTE COUNT OF THE 2006 GENERAL E BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS, SHALL AND
14 15	(II) ELECTION SHALL SERVE		THER FIVE MEMBERS ELECTED IN THE 2006 GENERAL 1 OF 4 YEARS.
16 17	[(2)] (3) the end of a school year.	The stu	dent member serves for a term of 1 year beginning at
20 21 22	County Executive of Prince Cany vacancy on the county B congressional election.] ANY	oard until VACAN THE EX	[Subject to the confirmation of the County Council, the County shall appoint a qualified individual to fill a successor is elected and qualifies at the next NCY ON THE COUNTY BOARD THAT OCCURS MORE PIRATION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ANY MEMBER AINDER OF THAT TERM:
24 25	OCCURS WITHIN 150 DA	1. YS OF A	AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IF THE VACANCY GENERAL ELECTION; OR
26		2.	AT A SPECIAL ELECTION.
29		ERIOD PE GRAPH (I	THER VACANCY, INCLUDING A VACANCY OCCURRING RECEDING THE ELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR, AS O OF THIS PARAGRAPH, SHALL REMAIN VACANT ED AND QUALIFIES.
31 32	(III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SH		PECIAL ELECTION PROVIDED FOR IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I)
33 34	VACANCY OCCURS; ANI	1.	TAKE PLACE NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE
35 36	LAW ARTICLE.	2.	BE GOVERNED BY TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 8 OF THE ELECTION

1 2	[(h)] (G) a member of the coun	(1) ty Board	With the approval of the Governor, the State Board may remove for any of the following reasons:
3		(i)	Immorality;
4		(ii)	Misconduct in office;
5		(iii)	Incompetency; or
6		(iv)	Willful neglect of duty.
	(2) copy of the charges prequest a hearing.		removing a member, the State Board shall send the member and give the member an opportunity within 10 days to
10	(3)	If the me	ember requests a hearing within the 10-day period:
	may not be set within hearing; and	(i) n 10 days	The State Board promptly shall hold a hearing, but a hearing after the State Board sends the member a notice of the
14 15	before the State Boar	(ii) rd in the r	The member shall have an opportunity to be heard publicly nember's own defense, in person or by counsel.
16 17	(4) review of the remova		per removed under this subsection has the right to a de novo Circuit Court for Prince George's County.
			[While] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS ng on the county Board, a member may not be a candidate a position on the county Board.
21 22	(2) TAKE AN UNPAID	(I) LEAVE	WHILE SERVING ON THE COUNTY BOARD, A MEMBER MAY OF ABSENCE TO BE A CANDIDATE IN A PRIMARY ELECTION.
25 26	CANDIDACY IN A	PRIMAF	AN UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE ING ON THE DAY THE MEMBER ANNOUNCES THE MEMBER'S RY ELECTION AND ENDING ON THE DAY THE RESULTS OF ELECTION ARE CERTIFIED BY AN APPROPRIATE ELECTIONS
28	[3-1003.] 3-1002.		
31	term, the [Chairman]	CHAIR ation and	becember 4, 2006, at the beginning of each member's full of the county Board is entitled to receive \$19,000 the other elected members are each entitled to receive ation.
35		the [Cha entitled to	bmitting vouchers under the rules and regulations adopted irman] CHAIR and the other members, including the othe allowances for travel and other expenses provided budget.

1 2	(2) \$7,000 in travel and		per of the county Board may not be reimbursed more than enses incurred in a single fiscal year.
3	[3-1004.] 3-1003.		
		r EACH l	enty Board shall hold [an annual] A meeting on the first EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR to elect a [chairman] CHAIR from among its members.
7	(2)	THE TI	ERM OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR IS 2 YEARS.
			e county Board OR A SUBDIVISION OF THE COUNTY BOARD ing and a record of the meeting and all actions shall be
	(C) (1) SHALL PROVIDE MEETING OR WO	PUBLIC	DUNTY BOARD OR A SUBDIVISION OF THE COUNTY BOARD NOTICE, INCLUDING A COPY OF THE AGENDA, OF ANY ION.
16 17	MEETING OR WO COUNTY BOARD	RK SESS IS CANC IRPOSE A	ONABLE ADVANCE PUBLIC NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN IF A ION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OR A SUBDIVISION OF THE CELED, POSTPONED, RESCHEDULED, OR HAS A CHANGE OF AND SHALL INCLUDE DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING,
21 22 23	and deliberating in e with the individual v COUNTY BOARD	ote of eac OR A SU	[This section does not prohibit the county Board from meeting session provided that all action of the Board, together ch member, is contained in a public record.] THE IBDIVISION OF THE COUNTY BOARD MAY MEET AND CUTIVE SESSION FOR ACTION ON ONLY THE FOLLOWING
25		(I)	COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS;
26		(II)	PERSONNEL MATTERS;
27		(III)	CASES OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE; AND
28 29	SUBTITLE.	(IV)	APPEALS TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 3-1004 OF THIS
30 31	` /		E THE COUNTY BOARD OR A SUBDIVISION OF THE COUNTY ECUTIVE SESSION, THE CHAIR SHALL:
32 33	SESSION; AND	(I)	CONDUCT A RECORDED VOTE ON THE CLOSING OF THE
34 35		(II) ICLUDIN	MAKE A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR CLOSING G A CITATION TO THE AUTHORITY TO CLOSE THE MEETING



14		UNOFF	FICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 1117	
1		(iii)	The staff of the County Council;	
2		(iv)	The county Department of Social Services;	
3		(v)	The staff of the county Superintendent of Education;	
4		(vi)	The Prince George's County Planning Board;	
5		(vii)	The county Department of Aging;	
6		(viii)	The county Health Department;	
7 8	Handicapped;	(ix)	The county Office of Coordination of Services to the	
9		(x)	The county Juvenile Services Administration;	
10		(xi)	The county Memorial Library System; and	
11 12	Development.	(xii)	The county Department of Program Planning and Economic	
	On a rotating basis, one member shall be from the faculty or administration of Bowie State College or Prince George's Community College. Such member shall be appointed by the president of the college.			
	(4) institutions shall be a the agency, departme	ppointed	mbers from governmental agencies, departments, or by the director, chairman, or chief executive officer of titution.	
19	(5)	Two me	embers shall be appointed by the County Executive.	
	0 (c) The term of the members appointed pursuant to subsection (b)(2), (3), and 1 (4) shall be 3 years. All other members shall serve for a term of 2 years. Any vacancy 2 on the Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.			
25 26 27	(d) The Council shall meet at least four times each year. It shall, on an annual basis and in conjunction with the county Board of Education, survey the schools within the county public school system and compile a listing of any vacant public schools and any vacant space that exists within the system. The Council shall evaluate the feasibility of using any vacant public school or vacant space for community or governmental purposes.			
31	(e) The Council shall report the results, findings, and recommendations derived from such survey, listing, and evaluation to the county Board of Education, the County Executive, the County Council and the mayor of each municipality in the county.]			

- 1 [3-1006.] 3-1004.
- 2 (a) In addition to the powers otherwise granted to the County Board in this
- 3 article, the County Board or a designated committee of the County Board may hear an
- 4 appeal from a decision of the County Superintendent that relates to the grade,
- 5 transfer, tuition, or any aspect of participation in a program or activity of a specific
- 6 student who is not subject to the provisions of Title 8, Subtitle 4 of this article.
- 7 (b) A designated committee shall consist of [at least 5 members] A MAJORITY
- 8 of the Board and [at least 5 members] A MAJORITY of a designated committee shall
- 9 be present to constitute a quorum of the committee.
- 10 [3-1007.] 3-1005.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in Prince George's County, the
- 12 Board of Education may implement the use of school uniforms by all students in the
- 13 public schools in the county.
- 14 [3-1008.] 3-1006.
- 15 (a) There is a Chief Financial Officer in the Prince George's County public 16 school system who shall:
- 17 (1) Be responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the
- 18 fiscal affairs of the Prince George's County public school system; and
- 19 (2) Report directly to the County Superintendent.
- 20 (b) The County Superintendent shall, subject to the approval of the County
- 21 Board:
- 22 (1) Select the Chief Financial Officer; and
- 23 (2) Establish the salary of the Chief Financial Officer.
- 24 (c) The employment contract of the Chief Financial Officer shall provide that
- 25 continued employment is contingent on the effective fiscal management of the Prince
- 26 George's County public schools.
- 27 (d) The Chief Financial Officer is not a public officer under the Constitution or
- 28 the laws of the State.
- 29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
- 30 take effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 20 of
- 31 Chapter 289 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002.
- 32 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions
- 33 of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005.