

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1103
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Prince George's County - Parent and Community Advisory Board
PG 413-05

This bill alters the membership of the Prince George's County Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB) and increases the terms of PCAB members from two to three years. A member who has more than three unexcused absences in a year may be removed and replaced. PCAB must post agendas and minutes from its meetings on the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) web site, and PGCPS must provide staff for PCAB.

The bill also requires the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the county school system to meet at least six times per year with PCAB and requires the Prince George's County Board of Education, or designated members of the board, to regularly meet and consult with PCAB. The CEO and the board of education must ensure parental involvement in the development of the operating budget, capital improvement program, and comprehensive master plan for PGCPS.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005. PCAB terminates on the date that an elected Board of Education for Prince George's County takes office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The changes to the makeup and responsibilities of PCAB would not materially affect the finances of Prince George's County or the county board of education.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Subject to the approval of the county board of education, the CEO appoints the 13 members of PCAB. Members serve two-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The board of education and CEO are required to regularly consult with PCAB and ensure parental involvement in the development and implementation of the education policies and procedures in PGCPS. The CEO must meet with PCAB on at least a quarterly basis.

Background: PCAB was established by Chapter 289 of 2002, which disbanded the elected Prince George's County Board of Education and reorganized the PGCPS governance structure under a board appointed jointly by the Governor and the county executive. At that time, PGCPS was working to accomplish nearly 300 broad recommendations made in a performance audit mandated by the General Assembly. The system was also struggling with conflicts among board of education members and between board members and the local superintendent of schools. Under Chapter 289, the appointed board of education will revert back to an elected board in 2006.

The PGCPS web site contains information on PCAB, including meeting dates, a recent meeting agenda, and minutes from past meetings. Minutes from the last two PCAB meetings indicate that nine PCAB members were present at a January 2005 meeting and six PCAB members were present at a February 2005 meeting. The minutes also report that the CEO was present at both meetings. The PCAB membership roster suggests that there are currently three vacancies on PCAB.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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