

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1123
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Prince George's County - Board of Education - Districts and Membership
PG 401-05

This bill reconfigures the Prince George's County Board of Education that will be elected at the 2006 general election. Six members must be elected from six school board districts established in the bill, and three members must be elected from the county at large. Members will serve staggered, four-year terms, and subject to the approval of the Prince George's County Council, the county executive will appoint a member to fill a vacancy on the board. With the approval of the Governor, the State Board of Education may remove a member for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty. A member who is removed has the right to a *de novo* review in circuit court. The bill also provides for a student member of the board with limited voting privileges.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005. The terms of members of the Prince George's County Board of Education who are serving on the bill's effective date expire on the first Monday after the November 2006 election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Changing the composition of the Prince George's County Board of Education would not materially affect county or board of education finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Board of Education consists of nine members appointed jointly by the Governor and the county executive and one student member. In 2006, the board is scheduled to revert to an elected board, with one member elected from each of five school board districts and four members elected from the county at large. The elected board will also include a student member.

Background: Chapter 289 of 2002 disbanded the elected Prince George's County Board of Education and reorganized the Prince George's County Public Schools (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 to an elected board in December 2006, following the 2006 general election. A comprehensive review of the current governance structure is due June 1, 2006.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2005
ncs/rhh

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510