

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 573

(Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Talbot County - Board of Education - Election of Members

This bill alters the selection process for the Talbot County Board of Education from appointment to election. Four new members will be elected at the 2006 general election, and three new members will be elected at the 2008 general election.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Talbot County school board expenditures would increase by approximately \$10,600 in FY 2006 and by \$14,100 annually thereafter.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill provides that the elected Talbot County Board of Education will consist of seven voting members, with one member elected from each of seven districts established in the bill. Elected members serve staggered four-year terms and may not serve more than three consecutive terms. The Governor appoints new members to fill vacancies on the board. In addition to the seven voting members, the board includes one nonvoting student member appointed by the voting members of the board.

Upon notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the State Board of Education may remove a board member for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, willful neglect of

duty, or failure to attend scheduled meetings. A member who is removed has a right to a *de novo* review in circuit court.

At the beginning of each calendar year, the county board must select a president and a vice president from among its members. Voting members receive compensation as set by the county council, although voting members must receive at least \$3,200 and the president of the board must receive at least \$3,600.

The county board must meet at least once a month and must make records of the meetings available to the public.

Current Law: The Talbot County Board of Education consists of seven voting members appointed by the Governor and one student representative. Voting members serve five-year terms, and the student representative 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.

In fiscal 2005, the voting members of the Talbot County Board of Education are receiving compensation of \$1,200 each, except the president who receives \$1,500.

Background: The Talbot County Board of Education is one of nine appointed school boards in the State. Another 13 local boards of education are elected, and two, the Cecil and Dorchester county boards, are in the process of transitioning from appointed boards to elected boards. The selection method and number of school board members for each of the 24 local boards are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Local Boards of Education
Members and Selection Methods

<u>County</u>	<u>Full Voting Members</u>	<u>Appointed Members</u>	<u>Elected Members From County At Large</u>	<u>Elected Members From Districts</u>	<u>Student Member(s)</u>
Allegany	5	0	5	0	1
Anne Arundel	7	7	0	0	1
Baltimore City	9	9	0	0	1
Baltimore	11	11	0	0	1
Calvert	5	0	2	3	1
Caroline	5	5	0	0	0
Carroll	5	0	5	0	1
Cecil*	5	5	0	0	1
Charles	7	0	7	0	1
Dorchester	6	3	0	3	2
Frederick	7	0	7	0	1
Garrett	5	0	2	3	1
Harford	7	7	0	0	1
Howard	5	0	5	0	0
Kent	5	0	5	0	1
Montgomery	7	0	2	5	1
Prince George's**	9	9	0	0	1
Queen Anne's	5	5	0	0	0
St. Mary's	5	0	1	4	1
Somerset	5	0	0	5	2
Talbot	7	7	0	0	1
Washington	7	0	7	0	1
Wicomico	7	7	0	0	0
Worcester	7	0	0	7	3

* The Cecil County board will begin transitioning to an elected board at the 2006 general election.

** The Prince George's County board will revert to an elected board following the 2006 general election.

Local Expenditures: In accordance with the board member compensation that is set by the county council, Talbot County expenditures would increase beginning in fiscal 2006 due to the required increase in compensation for board of education members. Annual
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compensation for school board members currently totals \$8,700 (\$1,500 for the board president and \$1,200 for each of the other six members). Under the bill, annual compensation would total at least \$22,800, a \$14,100 increase over the current level. Due to the bill's October 1, 2005 effective date, the fiscal 2006 impact would be \$10,575. The annualized impact of the compensation increases would be incurred in fiscal 2007 and each year thereafter.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 119 (Delegates Haddaway and Eckardt) – Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Talbot County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2005
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