

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 264  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Cadden, *et al.*)

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Anne Arundel County - Board of Education - Selection of Members - Straw  
Ballot

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This bill requires the Board of Supervisors of Elections in Anne Arundel County, in consultation with the State Board of Elections, to include a question on the November 2006 general election ballot asking voters if they would be in favor of changing the selection process for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education from appointment by the Governor to election by county residents. The results of the straw ballot must be reported but are only advisory.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The State Board of Elections could provide the necessary assistance to the Board of Supervisors of Elections in Anne Arundel County with available personnel and resources.

**Local Effect:** Depending on the length of the November 2006 ballot and the total number of questions that will be required on the ballot, printing costs for the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections could increase in FY 2007 to include the straw ballot question. The impact, if any, would not be significant.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Anne Arundel County Board of Education consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and one student member. The seven appointed

members serve staggered five-year terms, and the student member serves a one-year term.

**Background:** The Anne Arundel County Board of Education is 1 of 10 appointed school boards in the State. Another 13 local boards of education are elected, and 1, the Dorchester County board, is in the process of transitioning from an appointed board to an elected board. The selection method and number of school board members for each of the 24 local boards are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

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**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 and Talbot county boards will begin transitioning to elected boards at the 2006 general election.

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

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**Local Expenditures:** Anne Arundel County advises that the cost of adding a ballot question is determined by the number of discrete questions on the ballot as well as the actual verbiage of the individual questions. Printing costs could increase if including the straw ballot question requires the county board of elections to add an extra ballot card. Regardless, the additional costs would not be significant.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections, Anne Arundel County, Department of Legislative Services

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nas/rhh

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