

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1618  
Ways and Means

(Washington County Delegation)

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Task Force to Study the Electoral Process for Members Serving on the  
Washington County Board of Education

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Electoral Process for Members Serving on the Washington County Board of Education. The task force is required to hold at least three public hearings and must: (1) study alternatives to the current Washington County Board of Education election process; (2) analyze the impact of growth on the current board's capital construction plan; and (3) recommend options the current board may consider with regard to fairly and equitably distributing excise tax revenues and other capital resources throughout the county. A final report is due December 31, 2006. The Washington County Board of Education will provide staff for the task force.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006 and terminates June 30, 2007.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Any expenses incurred by Washington County officials participating in or staffing the task force could be paid from existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The Washington County Board of Education consists of seven members elected from the county at-large.

**Background:** Currently, 14 counties in Maryland elect their boards of education. Of these, six elect all school board members from the county at large and three elect all members from individual school board districts. The other five counties with elected boards have a mix of members elected from the county at large and from individual districts.

From the 2003-2004 school year to the 2005-2006 school year, Washington County has had the largest percentage increase in enrollment among the 24 local school systems in Maryland. Enrollment has increased from 19,966 in September 2003 to 20,709 in September 2005, an increase of 3.7%. The Maryland Department of Planning projects continued enrollment increases in the county of approximately 1.5% to 2.0% annually through at least the 2011-2012 school year.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 21, 2006  
mam/rhh

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