

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 71
Ways and Means

(Delegate Morhaim, *et al.*)

Baltimore County - Board of Education - Elected Members

This bill alters the composition of the Baltimore County Board of Education from a 12-member appointed board to a 15-member hybrid board consisting of appointed and elected members.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of Elections could carry out the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Local Effect: Potential increased expenditures in FY 2011 by the Baltimore County Board of Education for board member compensation and expense reimbursement. *Baltimore County did not respond to requests for an estimate of the bill's fiscal effect on the county.*

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Beginning with the 2010 general election, the Baltimore County Board of Education will consist of eight appointed members – one from each of the county's councilmanic districts and a student member – and seven members elected to four-year terms from each of the county's councilmanic districts. An elected member from a district must be a registered voter and resident of that district, and be elected by the voters of that district. With the advice and consent of the county council, the county executive appoints members to fill vacancies among the elected members.

The bill gives the State Board of Education the authority to remove an elected member, or a member appointed to fill a vacant elected position, for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, willful neglect of duty, or failure to attend at least 75% of board meetings in one year. Any member removed by the State board is entitled to a *de novo* review by the Circuit Court for Baltimore County.

Members of the county board are required to elect a chair and vice chair at the first meeting of each year. Members are entitled to compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided in the county budget.

Current Law: The Baltimore County Board of Education consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor:

- four from the county at large;
- one from each of the county's seven councilmanic districts; and
- one student member.

Board members serve five-year terms, except for the student member, who serves a one-year term. They serve without compensation. With the approval of the Governor, board members may be removed by the State Superintendent for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, willful neglect of duty, or failure to attend at least half of the board's meetings in one year.

Background: The Baltimore County Board of Education is one of seven appointed school boards in the State, of which one (Queen Anne's County) is in the process of transitioning to an elected board. Seventeen local boards of education are elected by county voters. The selection method, number of school board members, and salaries for each of the 24 local boards are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Local Boards of Education
Members, Selection Methods, and Compensation

<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>	<u>Member Salaries</u>
Allegany	5	0	5	0	1	5,000
Anne Arundel	7	7	0	0	1	None
Baltimore City	9	9	0	0	1	None
Baltimore	11	11	0	0	1	None
Calvert	5	0	2	3	1	4,000
Caroline	5	5	0	0	0	3,000
Carroll	5	0	5	0	1	5,000
Cecil	5	0	0	5	1	3,500
Charles	7	0	7	0	1	4,000
Dorchester	5	0	0	5	2	3,200
Frederick	7	0	7	0	0	10,000
Garrett	5	0	2	3	1	4,000
Harford	7	7	0	0	1	3,600
Howard	7	0	7	0	0	12,000
Kent	5	0	5	0	0	2,000
Montgomery	7	0	2	5	1	18,500
Prince George's	9	0	4	5	1	18,000
Queen Anne's*	5	5	0	0	0	3,500
St. Mary's	5	0	1	4	1	6,000
Somerset	5	0	0	5	0	2,700
Talbot	7	0	0	7	1	3,200
Washington	7	0	7	0	0	5,500
Wicomico	7	7	0	0	0	3,700
Worcester	7	0	0	7	3	3,200

*The Queen Anne's County board will begin transitioning to an elected board at the 2008 general election.

**Salaries shown here do not include any additional amounts for board chairs and presidents.

State Fiscal Effect: The State Board of Elections advises that, beginning in fiscal 2011, the bill would require it to reprogram election management software, create multiple ballot formats for each councilmanic district in Baltimore County, and test the reprogrammed system. The State board could perform these functions with existing resources.

Local Expenditures: Current Baltimore County school board members serve without compensation; the bill allows members to be compensated and reimbursed for travel and expenses, as provided in the county budget. County expenditures would thus increase in accordance with compensation provided in the county's annual budget.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 82 (Senator Zirkin) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Baltimore County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2007
ncs/rhh Revised - Correction - February 20, 2007

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