

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 513  
Ways and Means

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Howard County - Board of Education - Qualifications and Election of Student  
Member  
Ho. Co. 12-07**

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This bill adds a student member with partial voting rights to the Howard County Board of Education. It specifies qualifications and procedures for the student member's selection and establishes the student's roles and responsibilities on the board.

The bill is effective July 1, 2007.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Annual expenditures by the Howard County Board of Education may increase minimally beginning in FY 2008 to reimburse the student member for travel costs and other expenses.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The student member of the Howard County Board of Education must be a county resident and an eleventh or twelfth grade student in the Howard County public school system. The student is elected by students in grades 6-11 in accordance with

procedures established by the school board and serves a one-year term beginning on July 1 of each year. A student who finishes second in the election serves as the alternate student member.

The student member may vote on all matters before the board except those relating to:

- geographical attendance areas;
- acquisition and disposition of real property;
- employment of architects;
- donations;
- condemnations;
- school and transportation route consolidation;
- appointment and compensation for the county superintendent;
- employee and student discipline;
- budgetary matters;
- personnel; and
- collective bargaining.

The student may attend a closed session of the board only if a majority of the voting members approve. He or she is not entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses.

Five affirmative votes are needed to pass a motion when the student member is voting; four votes are needed when the student is not authorized to vote.

**Current Law:** The Howard County Board of Education consists of seven voting members elected from the county at large and serving four-year staggered terms. Although Howard County does not provide for a student member in statute, there is currently a nonvoting student representative on the board.

**Background:** As shown in **Exhibit 1**, 16 of the 24 local school systems in the State have statutory provisions for the inclusion of a student member on their school boards. Of the 16 local school systems with provisions for student members, 11 have nonvoting student members, 4 have student members with limited voting rights, and 1 has a student member with full voting rights.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Local Boards of Education**  
**Statutory Authority for Student Membership and Voting Rights**

<u>County</u>	<u>Student Member(s)</u>	<u>Voting Rights</u>
Allegany	1	Nonvoting
Anne Arundel	1	Full voting
Baltimore City	1	Limited voting
Baltimore	1	Limited voting
Calvert	1	Nonvoting
Caroline	0	
Carroll	0	
Cecil	1	Nonvoting
Charles	1	Nonvoting
Dorchester	2	Nonvoting
Frederick	0	
Garrett	1	Nonvoting
Harford	1	Nonvoting
Howard	0	
Kent	0	
Montgomery	1	Limited voting
Prince George's	1	Limited voting
Queen Anne's*	2	Nonvoting
St. Mary's	1	Nonvoting
Somerset	0	
Talbot	1	Nonvoting
Washington	0	
Wicomico	0	
Worcester	3	Nonvoting

\*Beginning in 2008

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2007  
ncs/rhh

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Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

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