

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 179

(Frederick County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - Board of Education - Nonvoting Student Member

This bill adds a nonvoting student member to the Frederick County Board of Education. It specifies qualifications and procedures for the student member's selection, and establishes the student's roles and responsibilities.

The bill is effective July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Nonvoting members are not compensated.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The nonvoting student member of the Frederick County Board of Education must be an eleventh or twelfth grade student in the Frederick County public school system. The student is elected by the county's high school students in accordance with procedures established by the school system, and serves a one-year term beginning on July 1 of each year.

The nonvoting student member advises the board on the thoughts and feelings of students in the county school system. The student may attend an executive session of the board only if a majority of the voting members approve.

Only voting members of the Frederick County board may be removed by the State Board of Education under the procedures already in place.

Current Law: The Frederick County Board of Education consists of seven voting members elected from the county at large and serving four-year staggered terms. Although Frederick County does not provide for a student member in statute, there is 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 restricted voting rights, and 1 has a student member with full voting rights.

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 | |

| <u>County</u> | <u>Student Member(s)</u> | <u>Voting Rights</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 153 (Senators Mooney and Brinkley) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Frederick County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2007
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