

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 499  
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

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Prince George's County Board of Education - Scholarship Award for Student  
Member  
PG 431-07

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This bill provides annual college scholarships of \$5,000 to students who complete a full term on the Prince George's County Board of Education (PGCBE). Students may receive the scholarships for up to four years as long as they remain a full-time student in good standing at a postsecondary institution.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** PGCBE expenditures would increase by \$5,000 in FY 2009 to provide a scholarship to the student member who serves during the 2007-2008 school year. Assuming each student member attends a four-year institution of postsecondary education and remains in good standing, county expenditures would increase an additional \$5,000 each year until they reach a maximum level of \$20,000 in FY 2012 and each year thereafter.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** PGCBE consists of nine elected members and one student member with partial voting rights. The student member must be an eleventh or twelfth grade student in the Prince George's County public school system, and is selected annually by the delegates to the Prince George's Regional Association of Student Governments. The student member may vote on all matters before the board except those relating to:

- capital and operating budgets;
- school closings, reopenings, and boundaries;
- collective bargaining decisions;
- student disciplinary matters;
- teacher and administrator disciplinary matters; and
- other personnel matters.

The student may not attend an executive session of the board unless invited to do so by a majority vote of 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. Only Montgomery County provides compensation of any kind to its student members (besides reimbursement for expenses). Student members of the Montgomery County Board of Education who complete a full term receive a one-time college scholarship of \$5,000.

**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

<u>County</u>	<u>Student Member(s)</u>	<u>Voting Rights</u>
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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**Local Expenditures:** Given the bill's October 1, 2007 effective date, the first student eligible for a scholarship would graduate in June 2008 and receive a \$5,000 scholarship in fiscal 2009. The following year, another student member would likely qualify for the scholarship; assuming the first student remains enrolled full-time and is in good standing in a postsecondary institution, the total cost would increase to \$10,000. This pattern continues until fiscal 2012, when no more than four students will receive scholarships in any one year. Therefore, the maximum annual cost to the board is \$20,000.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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

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