

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1560
Ways and Means

(Caroline County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Caroline County - Board of Education - Selection of Members - Straw Ballot

This bill requires the Caroline County Board of Elections, in consultation with the State Board of Elections, to hold a nonbinding referendum during the November 2008 general election regarding the selection of members of the Caroline County Board of Education. The proposed referendum asks whether voters favor changing the method of selection for board of education members from appointment by the Governor to election by county voters.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The Caroline County Board of Elections could handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Caroline County Board of Education is 1 of 7 appointed school boards in the State, of which 1 (Queen Anne's County) is in the process of transitioning to an elected board. Another 17 local boards of education are elected by county voters. The selection method and number of school board members for each of the 24 local boards are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Local Boards of Education
Members and Selection Methods

<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>
Allegany	5	0	5	0	1
Anne Arundel	7	7	0	0	1
Baltimore City*	9	9	0	0	1
Baltimore	11	11	0	0	1
Calvert	5	0	2	3	1
Caroline	5	5	0	0	0
Carroll	5	0	5	0	1
Cecil	5	0	0	5	1
Charles	7	0	7	0	1
Dorchester	5	0	0	5	2
Frederick	7	0	7	0	0
Garrett	5	0	2	3	1
Harford	7	7	0	0	1
Howard	7	0	7	0	0
Kent	5	0	5	0	0
Montgomery	7	0	2	5	1
Prince George's	9	0	4	5	1
Queen Anne's**	5	5	0	0	0
St. Mary's	5	0	1	4	1
Somerset	5	0	0	5	0
Talbot	7	0	0	7	1
Washington	7	0	7	0	0
Wicomico	7	7	0	0	0
Worcester	7	0	0	7	3

*The Baltimore City Board of Education is appointed jointly by the Governor and Mayor.

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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 988 (Senator Pipkin) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 19, 2008
mll/mwc

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