Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 954   (Delegate Lafferty, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Baltimore County - Board of Education - Appointment Process

This bill changes the size and composition of the Baltimore County School Board and establishes a School Board Nominating Commission to recommend prospective candidates for the county board to the Governor.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Assuming members of the School Board Nominating Commission are not compensated or reimbursed for expenses, the bill would not affect Baltimore County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The size of the Baltimore County Board of Education is reduced from 12 to 10 members. The board would consist of 4 members appointed by the Governor from the county at large, 5 members appointed from each of the school system's administrative areas, and 1 student member.

Except for the student member, each member appointed by the Governor to the county board of education would be selected from a list provided by the School Board Nominating Commission. Lists of nominees submitted to the Governor must include at

least three names or the total number of applicants if there are fewer than three. If the Governor rejects all of the nominees for a vacancy, the nominating commission may submit up to three additional names. Appointments to the nominating commission must be made with consideration of its geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity.

New appointments made to the board of education are staggered according to the expiration dates for terms of existing members. Members of the board as of June 30, 2009 are eligible for renomination by the commission and reappointment by the Governor for one additional term.

Current Law: The Baltimore County Board of Education consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor, of whom 4 are from the county at large, 7 are from each of the county's councilmanic districts, and 1 is a student.

Background: The Baltimore 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

County	Full Voting Members	Appointed Members	Elected Members from County At Large	Elected Members from Districts	Student Member(s)
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

County	Full Voting Members	Appointed Members	Elected Members from County At Large	Elected Members from Districts	Student Member(s)
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 School Commissioners 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: SB 99 of 2007 sought to establish a school board nominating convention for Baltimore County. It received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee.

Cross File: None.

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

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