

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 806
Ways and Means

(Delegates James and Riley)

Harford County Board of Education - Nomination and Appointment Process

This bill establishes a School Board Nominating Commission for the Harford County Board of Education, and requires the Governor to appoint members to fill vacancies on the county board only from the list of nominees provided by the nominating commission. It further requires that one member of the school board be appointed from the county at large and the remaining six members be appointed from each of the county's councilmanic districts.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. It is assumed that Harford County could hold the required public meetings with existing budgeted resources. The bill does not provide for compensation for members of the nominating commission.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The nominating commission must adopt a charter and rules consistent with requirements in the bill. It must hold at least two public meetings before submitting its list of nominees to the Governor.

Beginning January 1, 2009 and no later than May 1 of each year, the commission must submit a list of nominees to the Governor for each vacancy that occurs on the county board. The list has to include at least two nominees or the total number of nominees if there are fewer than three candidates. If the Governor rejects all of the nominees submitted by the commissioners, the commissioners may submit a second list of nominees from which the Governor must choose. The Governor must appoint a member from one of the lists submitted by the commission.

Current Law: The Harford County Board of Education has seven voting members appointed by the Governor from the county at large, and one nonvoting student member. Voting members serve five-year terms, and the Governor fills any vacancies that occur on the board.

Background: The Harford 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**.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1392 of 2007, a similar bill, also sought to establish a nominating commission for the Harford County school board. Amended versions of the bill passed both houses, but differences between the two versions were not reconciled by a conference committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2008
mcp/mwc

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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 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.
