

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 306 (Senator Glassman)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Harford County - Board of Education - Selection of Members

This bill reconstitutes the Harford County Board of Education from seven appointed voting members serving staggered five-year terms to an 11-member hybrid board consisting of appointed and elected members who serve staggered four-year terms. It establishes residency requirements for board members and procedures for removing members and filling vacant positions. The bill also requires that gubernatorial appointments to the board reflect, to the extent practicable, gender, ethnic, and racial diversity.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The State Board of Elections could add candidates for the school board to Harford County general election ballots with existing resources.

Local Effect: None. Harford County could conduct elections for school board members with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Once all the new members are in place, the new Harford County Board of Education will consist of nine voting members and two nonvoting members, as follows:

- three voting members appointed by the Governor;

- six voting members elected at the general election from each of the six councilmanic districts in the county;
- one nonvoting student member; and
- the superintendent of Harford County Public Schools, who serves *ex officio* and is a nonvoting member.

The three Governor-appointed members will serve staggered four-year terms, with two beginning in 2012 and one in 2014. The elected members also serve staggered four-year terms, with three members elected at the 2012 general election and three at the 2014 general election. All members of the county board must be residents of the county and have been registered voters in Harford County for at least three years prior to serving on the board. Each elected member is elected only by the voters of the councilmanic district she/he represents. When appropriate, the appointed members must be appointed within 90 days of the general election.

Elected and appointed members of the board may be reelected or reappointed, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms as a voting member.

The board also includes the superintendent of schools for the county as a nonvoting *ex officio* member and a nonvoting student member elected by all high school students in the county. Members of the board elect their president and vice president annually.

The county council appoints new members to fill vacancies and complete terms until new members are elected or appointed and qualify. The State Board of Education may remove a voting member of the board for • immorality; • misconduct in office; • incompetency; • willful neglect of duty; or • failure to attend, without good cause, at least 75% of scheduled board meetings in any one calendar year. The removal is subject to a hearing before the State board and a *de novo* review by the Circuit Court for Harford County.

Current Law: The Harford County Board of Education consists of seven voting members appointed by the Governor, who also appoints new members to fill vacancies on the board. Members are eligible for reappointment but may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

With the approval of the Governor, the State Superintendent of Schools may remove a member for • immorality; • misconduct in office; • incompetency; • willful neglect of duty; or • failure to attend, without good cause, at least half of scheduled board meetings in any one calendar year. Members who are removed for cause are entitled to a hearing before the State Superintendent and a review by the Circuit Court of Harford County.

Background: The Harford County Board of Education is one of seven appointed school boards in the State, of which one (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: HB 779 (Harford County Delegation) – Ways and Means.

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

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