

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1607
Ways and Means

(Anne Arundel County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County - Board of Education and School Board Nominating
Commission

This bill repeals uncodified language from Chapter 454 of 2007 that provides that, pursuant to the Maryland Constitution, the new stipend for Anne Arundel County school board members does not take effect until the following term of office. It also requires the Department of Legislative Services to staff the School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Legislative Services could staff the nominating commission during legislative interims with existing resources; any staffing needs during the annual legislative session or special sessions could require additional expenditures for temporary staff.

Local Effect: Expenditures for the Anne Arundel County school system increase by \$9,600 in FY 2009, and a total of \$16,800 by FY 2011, to provide stipends to all members of the school board. The school system does not incur additional costs after FY 2011.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Article III, §35 of the Maryland Constitution provides that the salary or compensation of a public official may not be increased or decreased during the current term of office, unless the term of office is fixed by law in excess of four years. Under State law, Anne Arundel County Board of Education members serve five years.

Chapter 454 of 2007 added one regional seat to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, created the School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County, and provided stipends for school board members. The board increased from eight members to nine, of whom three are selected from the county at large, five represent each of the five legislative districts in the county, and one member is a student. Effective at the beginning of the next term of office, the board president receives an annual stipend of \$8,000, and each of the other board members (except the student member) receives \$6,000 annually.

The School Board Nominating Commission consists of 11 members, appointed as follows:

- five by the Governor, one from each legislative district in the county;
- one by the county executive;
- one by the teachers' association of Anne Arundel County;
- one by the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce;
- one by the Anne Arundel County Council of Parent Teacher Associations;
- one by the Anne Arundel County Community College Board of Trustees; and
- one by the Association of Education Leaders.

Commission members serve four year terms, except that the terms of the first members of the commission expire January 18, 2009. There is no designated staff for the commission.

Local Expenditures: Subsequent to the passage of Chapter 454, two terms of office on the Anne Arundel County school board expired, so two members have already begun receiving the increased stipends. Of the remaining five nonstudent members (under the previous configuration), the president's term expires on July 1, 2008 (the bill's effective date), one term expires in 2009, two expire in 2010, and one expires in 2011. Therefore, four members who would not otherwise be eligible for increased compensation would be eligible to begin receiving a stipend in fiscal 2009 under the bill.

For the four members who are not currently eligible for the new stipend, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education's annual budget includes \$14,400 to pay for \$3,600 in travel and other expenses for each member. Therefore, for fiscal 2009, expenditures for the Anne Arundel County school system would increase by \$9,600, or by \$2,400 for each of the four members. The additional costs resulting from this bill would be lower in each successive year since, under current law, more school board members would become eligible for the increased stipends each year. After fiscal 2011, there would be no difference between current law stipends and the stipends that would be provided under the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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