

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 639

(Washington County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Washington County - Board of Education - Vacancies

This bill establishes a School Board Nominating Commission for Washington County to nominate individuals to fill vacancies on the county school board. The county commissioners, rather than the Governor, will appoint individuals to fill vacancies on the board from the list of nominees provided by the commission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Assuming members of the nominating commission are not compensated, Washington County could handle the bill's provisions with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The School Board Nominating Commission must advertise board of education vacancies in at least one medium accessible to the general public and hold at least one public hearing before submitting the names of no more than three nominees for any vacancy to the county commissioners. The list of nominees must be submitted within 30 days of the vacancy occurring, and the county commissioners have 15 days after receiving the list of nominees to select a replacement. The county commissioners must provide staff for the School Board Nominating Commission.

Current Law: The Washington County Board of Education consists of seven members elected to four-year terms from the county at large. The Governor is responsible for

appointing a qualified individual to fill a vacancy on the board and serve the remainder of the term.

Background: The Washington County Board of Education is 1 of 17 local school boards elected by county voters. The other 16 school boards with elected members fill vacancies in several different ways. In 6 counties, the Governor appoints individuals to fill vacancies. In 6 other counties, either the county commissioners or the county council appoints individuals to fill vacancies. In 2 counties, the remaining members of the school board elect a replacement, and in 2 other counties the county executive names individuals to fill vacancies, subject to the approval of the county council.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2008
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