

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 350  
Ways and Means

(Washington County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Washington County - Board of Education - President and Members Salary**

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This bill increases the annual salary of the Washington County Board of Education by \$600 per board member. The board president will receive an annual salary of \$6,200 and other board members will receive an annual salary of \$6,100. The bill also repeals the requirement that board members be paid in 12 equal monthly installments.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Washington County expenditures increase by \$900 in FY 2011 and by \$4,200 in FY 2014, when the full impact of the salary increases takes effect. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Washington County Board of Education consists of seven members who are elected to four-year terms from the county at large. The board president receives an annual salary of \$5,600 and the other board members receive \$5,500 annually. Board members are entitled to health insurance and other fringe benefits provided to board of education employees and are reimbursed for travel and other expenses. A board member's compensation may not be increased during a term of office. The compensation for board members was most recently adjusted by Chapter 78 of 2005, when salaries were increased by \$700 per board member.

**Background:** The Washington County Salary Study Commission recommended a \$600 salary increase for board members in 2010, based on an analysis of board duties and salaries in comparison to those of other local school systems in Maryland. Board of education members receive annual salaries in 22 counties; in four counties salaries are set at or above \$10,000, and in 10 counties salaries are set at \$4,000 or below.

Washington County advises that members of the county board of education are paid on a bi-weekly basis, thus the bill will make current practice consistent with State law.

**Local Expenditures:** Washington County expenditures will increase by \$4,200 annually once all seven members of the board of education become eligible for the compensation increases. The Maryland Constitution prohibits increases in the salaries and compensation of board members during a term of office. Currently, the terms of three board members are due to expire following the November 2010 general election (approximately halfway through fiscal 2011), and the terms of four board members are due to expire following the November 2012 general election (halfway through fiscal 2013). The staggered terms will have the effect of phasing in the compensation increases over four fiscal years, beginning with an increase of \$900 in fiscal 2011. The full expenditure increase of \$4,200 will first be incurred in fiscal 2014. Minimal increases in benefits linked to payroll amounts will also be incurred.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2009  
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