

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 331 (Senator Colburn)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Dorchester County Board of Education - Annual Election of Board Officers

This bill changes the time of year that the Dorchester County Board of Education elects its officers from the beginning of each calendar year to December of each year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The change will not impact the finances of the Dorchester County Board of Education.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Dorchester County Board of Education must elect a president and vice president, from among its members, at its first meeting at the beginning of each calendar year. The board consists of five elected and voting members and one nonvoting student member from each of its (currently two) public high schools. The board must meet at least once each month.

Each voting member serves for a term of four years, beginning at noon on the first Monday in December after the member's election and until a successor is elected and qualifies. Members' terms are staggered, and a voting member may not serve for more than three consecutive terms.

Background: In 2004, Dorchester County transitioned from appointment of school board members to elections. New board members are generally elected in November and begin their service in the beginning of December, but all members must wait until the first meeting of the calendar year to elect officers. Presently, depending on election results or the decision of an officer to not seek reelection, the board could potentially be without one or both of its officers for the month of December. In practice, the board usually meets at least twice in December, which is when budget-related public comment and work sessions occur.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 112 (Delegate Eckardt, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2009
ncs/mwc

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