

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 991 (Delegates Schuh and McConkey)
Ways and Means

Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Members - Increase and Selection

This bill restructures the Anne Arundel County Board of Education from a 9-member appointed board to an 11-member hybrid board by adding 2 additional members who will be elected at large from the county every four years, beginning with the November 2014 general election.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by \$11,700 in FY 2015 and by \$20,000 annually beginning in FY 2016, to cover salary and expenses for two additional board members. The Anne Arundel County Board of Elections can add extra names to election ballots using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An elected member of the county board must be a county resident. An elected member serves for a four-year term, beginning on the first Monday in December after election and until a successor is elected and qualifies. Unless otherwise disqualified, an elected member is eligible for reelection, but may not serve for more than two consecutive terms as a member of the county board.

The Anne Arundel County Board of Elections may adopt regulations to implement provisions of the bill. The county council must appoint a qualified individual to fill any vacancy of an elected member for the remainder of the term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

Current Law: The Anne Arundel County Board of Education consists of nine members, of whom three members are appointed from the county at large, five members are appointed from each of the five legislative districts in the county, and one is a student member. Except for the student member, the Governor must appoint a member of the county board from a list of nominees submitted by the School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County.

The School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County was established in 2007 (Chapter 454). The commission must submit at least two nominees to the Governor for each vacancy for the county board, unless there are fewer than two applicants for a vacancy.

Following the initial appointment of a board member by the Governor, a member may continue to serve for the remainder of the member's first term subject to the approval or rejection of the registered voters of the county at the next general election. A board member may serve for a second consecutive term subject to the approval or rejection by the registered voters of the county at the next general election.

On receipt of the required notice from the county board of education to the State Board of Elections, the name of a county board member must be placed on the appropriate ballot and shown, without opposition. Voters must vote for or against retaining the member on the board. If the voters reject the retention of the member, or if the vote is tied, the position becomes vacant 10 days after certification of the election returns, and the member serves until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

The student board member must be a regularly enrolled senior-year student of good character and in good standing in an Anne Arundel County public high school, and be selected in the student's junior year by a method selected by the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils of Anne Arundel County.

Background: The Anne Arundel County Board of Education is one of five appointed school boards in the State, including one (Caroline County) that is in the process of transitioning to a hybrid board of appointed and elected members. Harford County has such a hybrid board. Eighteen local boards 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**.

Local Fiscal Effect: The President of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education receives \$8,000 annually as compensation and, except for the student member, board members receive \$6,000 each annually. In addition, members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education receive a monthly allowance toward reimbursement for local travel and other expenses related to attending meetings and transacting board business, per board policy. The adopted fiscal 2011 budget for Anne Arundel County Public Schools includes a total of \$38,400 for these allowances, or approximately \$360 for each member per month. The board indicates that in practice the allowance per board member is \$300 per month. Furthermore, it is board policy to reimburse board members for other expenses incurred in the performance of board duties. This includes expenses related to annual attendance of a Maryland Association of Boards of Education conference and a National School Boards Association conference.

Accounting for the December 2014 start date for the initial terms of the two elected members, county expenditures for board member salaries and expenses increase by approximately \$11,700 in fiscal 2015 and by approximately \$20,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2016. The Anne Arundel County Board of Elections can add extra names to election ballots using existing resources.

Exhibit 1
Local Boards of Education

School System	Number of Members	Term	Means of Selection¹	
Allegany	7	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 commissioner <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Anne Arundel	9	5 years	A	3 from county at large 5 from legislative districts 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore City	10	3 years	A	9 from city at large 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore	12	5 years	A	4 from county at large 7 from council districts 1 student (one-year term)
Calvert	6	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Caroline ²	7	4 years	A/E	3 elected from school board districts 2 appointed from county at large 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Carroll	9	4 years	E	5 from county at large 3 commissioners <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Cecil	6	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Charles	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Dorchester	7	4 years	E	5 from council districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Frederick	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one year term)
Garrett	7	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 commissioner <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection ¹
Harford	11	4 years	A/E	6 elected from council districts 3 appointed 1 superintendent <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Howard	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (one-year term)
Kent	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Montgomery	8	4 years	E	2 from county at large 5 from school board districts 1 student (one-year term)
Prince George's	10	4 years	E	9 from school board districts 1 student (one-year term)
Queen Anne's	7	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
St. Mary's	6	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Somerset	5	4 years	E	All from commissioner districts
Talbot	8	4 years	E	7 from school board districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Washington	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Wicomico	7	5 years	A	All from county at large
Worcester	10	4 years	E	7 from commissioner districts 3 students (nonvoting, one-year term)

¹A = Appointed by Governor, except in Baltimore City where board is appointed jointly by the Governor and the Mayor. E = Elected. A/E = Combined appointed and elected board.

²Voters in Caroline County decided at the 2010 general election to change from an appointed board to a combination appointed and elected board beginning with the November 2012 general election. The terms of the five current appointed members will expire December 2, 2012.

Source: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 3-101 through 3-1405; local board of education websites

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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