

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 943 (Senator Muse)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Education - Student Member - Voting Rights

This bill repeals certain voting rights exceptions for the student member of the State Board of Education, thus allowing the student member full voting rights on the board.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Expanding the voting rights of the student member of the State Board of Education does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The student member of the State Board of Education is chosen by the Governor from a list of two nominees submitted by the Maryland Association of Student Councils and serves a one-year term of office. A student member may be reappointed but may not serve more than two terms. The student member must be a Maryland public high school student in good standing. The student member on the State board may not vote on specified appeals to the State board or on matters related to the dismissal of or other disciplinary action involving personnel.

In addition to the student member, the State Board of Education is made up of 11 individuals appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

These members serve four-year terms of office and may not serve more than two full terms.

Background: Chapter 534 of 1993 allowed the student member to participate in executive sessions of the board and to vote on many of the issues before the board. Chapter 575 of 2010 authorized the student member to vote on matters relating to the budget.

As shown in **Appendix 1**, the majority of the 24 local school systems in Maryland have statutory provisions for the inclusion of student members on their school boards. Of the 18 local school systems with provisions for student members, 12 have nonvoting student members, 5 have student members with limited voting rights, and 1 has a student member with full voting rights. Of the 6 school systems that have no statutory authorization for student board members, several have instead authorized student members through local practices and policies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2011
ncs/mwc

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Appendix 1
Local Boards of Education
Statutory Authority for Student Membership and Voting Rights

County	Student Member(s)	Voting Rights
Allegany	1	Nonvoting
Anne Arundel	1	Full voting
Baltimore City	1	Limited voting
Baltimore	1	Limited voting
Calvert	1	Nonvoting
Caroline	0	
Carroll	0	
Cecil	1	Nonvoting
Charles	1	Nonvoting
Dorchester	2	Nonvoting
Frederick	1	Nonvoting
Garrett	1	Nonvoting
Harford	1	Nonvoting
Howard	1	Limited voting
Kent	0	
Montgomery	1	Limited voting
Prince George's	1	Limited voting
Queen Anne's	2	Nonvoting
St. Mary's	1	Nonvoting
Somerset	0	
Talbot	1	Nonvoting
Washington	0	
Wicomico	0	
Worcester	3	Nonvoting

Source: Department of Legislative Services
