

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1117
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Prince George's County Board of Education - Student Member - Voting Rights
PG 417-11

This bill repeals certain voting rights exceptions for the student member of the Prince George's County Board of Education, thus allowing the student member to vote on matters relating to capital and operating budgets; school closings, reopenings, and boundaries; and student disciplinary matters.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Expanding the voting rights of the student member of the Prince George's County Board of Education does not affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The student member of the Prince George's County Board of Education serves a one-year term and must be elected by the Prince George's Regional Association of Student Governments and must be an eleventh or twelfth grade student during his or her term on the board.

The student member on the Prince George's County Board of Education may not vote on matters related to (1) capital and operating budgets; (2) school closings, reopenings, and boundaries; (3) collective bargaining decisions; (4) student disciplinary matters; (5) specified teacher and administrator disciplinary matters; and (6) other personnel matters.

Background: As shown in **Exhibit 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. The student member of the State Board of Education also has limited voting rights.

Exhibit 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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 576 (Senators Muse and Miller) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/hlb

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