

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 398  
Ways and Means

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Task Force on the Membership and Operation of the Baltimore County Board of Education**

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This bill establishes a Task Force on the Membership and Operation of the Baltimore County Board of Education. The task force must make recommendations on the ideal size of the board of education; the most appropriate method of selecting board members; the appropriate phase-in period for changes to the existing selection process; and improving the transparency and professionalism of the board. The Office of the Baltimore County Executive must provide staff support for the task force. A report of findings and recommendations is due by October 1, 2011.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011, and terminates December 31, 2011.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Staffing requirements and expense reimbursements for task force members can be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Baltimore County Board of Education consists of 12 members, of whom 4 members are appointed from the county at large, 7 members are appointed from each of the seven legislative districts in the county, and 1 is a student member. Members serve five-year terms, except the student member who serves a one-year term.

**Background:** The Baltimore 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**.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Local Boards of Education**

<b>School System</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Means of Selection<sup>1</sup></b>
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 <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>
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)

<sup>1</sup>A = 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.

<sup>2</sup>Voters 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:** SB 397 (Senator Klausmeier) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2011  
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