

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 701

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Montgomery County Board of Education - Student Member - Voting
MC 9-12

This bill repeals certain voting rights exceptions for the student member of the Montgomery County Board of Education so that the student member is required to vote on matters relating to capital and operating budgets; school closings, reopenings, and boundaries; and collective bargaining. Also, the student member must vote on the grounds and procedures for suspension or dismissal of teachers, principals, and other professional personnel, unless the individual facing suspension or dismissal is employed by the school attended by the student member. The bill also authorizes the student member to attend executive sessions that relate to collective bargaining.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Unless invited by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Montgomery County Board of Education, the student member may not attend an executive session that relates to collective bargaining or certain personnel hearings. The student member must vote on all matters before the board except those relating to:

- grounds and procedures for suspension or dismissal of teachers, principals, and other professional personnel;

- collective bargaining;
- capital and operating budgets; and
- school closings, reopening, and boundaries.

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.

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: HB 539 of 2011 and HB 857 of 2010 passed the House and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken on either bill.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2012
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