

**Department of Legislative Services**  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 816

(Harford County Senators)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Harford County Board of Education - Student Member**

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This bill gives limited voting rights to the student member of the Harford County Board of Education; prohibits the student member from attending specified closed sessions of the board; specifies that the student member is not entitled to payment or reimbursement for travel and other board-related expenses; and otherwise gives the student member the same rights and privileges enjoyed by elected and appointed members of the board.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Harford County finances are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The student member must vote on all matters except those relating to:

- geographical attendance areas;
- acquisition and disposition of real property and matters pertaining to school construction;
- employment of architects to prepare construction or remodeling plans and specifications;
- donations of real property;

- acquisition of land by condemnation;
- consolidation of schools and transportation of students;
- appointment and salary of a county superintendent of schools;
- employee discipline appeals and other appeals;
- budgetary matters;
- appointment and promotion of school board staff;
- discipline of certificated staff;
- collective bargaining for certificated or noncertificated employees;
- student suspension and expulsion; and
- school calendar and curriculum.

Unless invited to attend by the vote of the majority of the county board, the student member may not attend a closed session addressing a matter on which he\she is prohibited from voting. The student member is not entitled to payment or reimbursement for travel and other expenses related to the performance of board duties. The student member otherwise has the same rights and privileges as an elected or appointed member of the board.

**Current Law:** The Harford County Board of Education consists of six elected members, three appointed members, the county superintendent of schools, who serves as an *ex officio* nonvoting member, and one nonvoting student member. The student member must be in grade 11 or 12, be a regularly enrolled public school system student in good standing, and be a student government association representative. The county's high school students elect the student member, who serves a one-year term. Unless invited to attend by an affirmative vote of a majority of the board, the student member may not attend an executive session.

Each member of the Harford County Board of Education is entitled to receive \$3,600 annually for travel and other expenses related to the performance of board duties. Subject to board approval, a member may be reimbursed for additional travel and other expenses.

**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.

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

<b>County</b>	<b>Student Member(s)</b>	<b>Voting Rights</b>
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

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 987 of 2009 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but was subsequently withdrawn.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2012  
mm/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 22, 2012

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