

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 194 (Senator Reilly)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member - Voting Rights

This bill prohibits the student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education from voting on matters relating to capital and operating budgets, collective bargaining, and certain teacher and administrator disciplinary matters. On a majority vote of elected members, the board may determine whether a matter under consideration concerns a subject on which the student member is prohibited from voting.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The finances of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education are not affected by limiting the voting rights of its student member.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Anne Arundel County Board of Education consists of nine members, of whom three members are appointed from the county at large, five members are appointed from each of the five legislative districts in the county, and one is a student member. The student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education has full voting rights on the board. A student member who completes a full term on the board must be granted a scholarship of \$6,000 toward the student's higher education costs.

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 20 local school systems with provisions for student members, 13 have

nonvoting student members, 6 have student members with limited voting rights, and 1, Anne Arundel County, has a student member with full voting rights. The student member of the Montgomery County Board of Education has similar voting restrictions as those proposed by this bill but is also prohibited from voting on matters relating to school closings, reopening, and boundaries. The voting student members on other local boards of education have more stringent restrictions on their 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	2	Nonvoting
Carroll	1	Nonvoting
Cecil	1	Nonvoting
Charles	1	Nonvoting
Dorchester	2	Nonvoting
Frederick	1	Nonvoting
Garrett	1	Nonvoting
Harford	1	Limited voting
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: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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mc/hlb

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