

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 870

(Senator Edwards)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

Garrett County - Memorial Hospital - Board of Governors

This bill establishes limits on the number of consecutive terms certain members of the Garrett County Memorial Hospital Board of Governors may serve (a limit of two consecutive terms for the medical staff member and four consecutive terms for at-large members). A member who has served the maximum number of consecutive terms may not be elected to the board again until at least two years have elapsed since the end of the member's last term. The board must provide at least two weeks' (as opposed to one week) notice to a member prior to removing the member for cause. The board no longer has the authority to fill a vacancy for a member for whom county residence is a membership qualification, if the member no longer resides in the county and the proper selecting body fails to fill the vacancy within 30 days. The bill clarifies that the board must have the power to implement the rates for hospitalization as prescribed by the Health Services Cost Review Commission (rather than prescribe the charges for hospitalization), and it removes "general" from the term "general public hospital." The bill also removes the *ex officio* status of certain board members.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Garrett County finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Garrett County Memorial Hospital is operated by a 15-member Board of Governors comprising three county commissioners (or their designees), three residents of Garrett County, the President of the Town Council of the Town of Oakland (or the president's designee), a member of the hospital medical staff, and seven at-large members.

The medical staff member of the board is elected by the medical staff and subject to approval by majority vote of the board. At-large members are selected for their talents, abilities, and interest in the affairs of the hospital. Selection of an at-large member requires a majority of the qualified votes of the board. The election of an at-large member requires at least five affirmative votes.

The length of terms for members of the board are generally two years or, in the case of the county commissioners and the President of the Town Council of the Town of Oakland, coextensive with their respective terms of office. There are no term limits.

A county commissioner or the President of the Town Council, serving as *ex officio* members, may not be removed from the board. By majority vote of all the members of the board, the board may remove a member for cause, including the failure to satisfy any attendance requirement established in the bylaws. Removal of a member may only occur at a regular meeting, after not less than one week's notice to the member. The board may fill a vacancy caused by expiration of a term, death, resignation, expulsion, or, for a member whose residence in Garrett County is a membership qualification for the board, removal from the county if the proper selecting body fails to fill the vacancy within 30 days. A vacancy may be filled for the remainder of the term by a majority vote of the board.

The board must have the power to, among other things, prescribe the charges for hospitalization and provide for the collection of the charges and employ and fix the compensation of superintendents and such other persons as may be needed in carrying on the work of the Garrett County Memorial Hospital as a general public hospital.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1261 (Delegate Beitzel) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Garrett County, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 23, 2015
min/ljm Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 6, 2015

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