

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 16

(Senator Eckardt)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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**Talbot County - Board of Education - Student Members**

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This bill increases, from one to two, the number of nonvoting student members on the Talbot County Board of Education. The two student members must be eleventh or twelfth grade public school students and are appointed to one-year terms according to procedures adopted by the county board. One student member must be appointed from St. Michaels High School and the other from Easton High School.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Adding an additional student member to the Talbot County Board of Education may minimally increase Talbot County Public Schools administrative expenses.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Talbot County Board of Education consists of seven elected and voting members and one nonvoting student member. The student member of the board is a nonvoting member, serves a one-year term, and must be an eleventh or twelfth grade student in the Talbot County public school system. The student member position must alternate annually between St. Michaels High School and Easton High School.

**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.

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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	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):** Talbot County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 18, 2016  
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