

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1571 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Ways and Means

**Prince George's County School System Academic Revitalization and
Management Effectiveness Task Force**
PG 416-17

This bill establishes the Prince George's County School System Academic Revitalization and Management Effectiveness Task Force staffed by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). The task force must study and make recommendations regarding specified aspects of the Prince George's County Board of Education, including the selection process and qualifications for members of the board. The bill specifies the membership of the task force and requires it to report findings and recommendations by October 1, 2018.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017, and terminates December 31, 2018.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DLS can staff the task force and provide expense reimbursements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must study and make recommendations concerning (1) the composition, qualifications, and compensation of board members; (2) methods for selecting board members; (3) a board composition that reflects the gender and racial diversity of the county; (4) an appropriate phase-in period for any recommended changes

to the board composition; (5) criteria that improve board results, accountability, transparency, and oversight; (6) criteria for establishing and measuring board outcomes; (7) a protocol for board audits and addressing audit findings; (8) best practices regarding board operations; (9) best practices for school safety measures; and (10) any other relevant issues.

At least three public meetings must be held by the task force in geographically diverse areas of the county that allow members of the general public and stakeholder organizations to testify on issues being studied by the task force. The task force must extend an invitation to representatives of specified stakeholder organizations to testify.

The findings and recommendations of the task force must be reported to the Governor, State Superintendent of Schools, Prince George's County Executive, Prince George's County Council, Chief Executive Officer of the Prince George's County Public School System, Prince George's County Board of Education, Prince George's County Senate Delegation, and Prince George's County House Delegation.

Current Law/Background: The Prince George's County Board of Education consists of 14 members, including 9 elected members (each residing in one of nine school board districts); 4 appointed members; and 1 student member with limited voting rights. Members serve four-year terms. Each candidate for an elected board seat must be a registered voter and a resident of the school board district he or she intends to represent.

Of the four appointed members, three members are appointed by the county executive and must possess, respectively, a high level of (1) knowledge and expertise concerning education; (2) business, finance, or higher education experience; and (3) knowledge and expertise concerning successful administration of a large organization. Also, one member is appointed by the county council and must be the parent of a student enrolled in the county public school system.

The board chair receives an annual salary of \$19,000, while other board members (except the student member, who receives no salary) receive an annual salary of \$18,000. Elected and appointed members receive health insurance and other fringe benefits. All members are entitled to a maximum of \$7,000 per fiscal year in allowances for travel and other expenses, as provided in the county budget.

The Prince George's County Board of Education is 1 of 3 hybrid school boards in the State consisting of both elected and appointed members. There are 4 appointed school boards in the State and 17 have elected boards. **Appendix – Local Boards of Education** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local boards of education.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2017
mm/hlb

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Appendix – Local Boards of Education

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection ¹
Allegany	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Anne Arundel ²	9	5 years	A	3 from county at large 5 from legislative districts 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore City ³	10	3 years	A	9 from city at large 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore ⁴	12	5 years	A	4 from county at large 7 from councilmanic districts 1 student (one-year term)
Calvert	6	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Caroline	7	4 years	A/E	3 elected from school board districts 2 appointed from county at large 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Carroll	11	4 years	E	5 from county at large 5 commissioners <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Cecil	6	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Charles	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Dorchester	7	4 years	E	5 from councilmanic districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Frederick	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Garrett	6	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection¹
Harford	11	4 years	A/E	6 elected from councilmanic districts 3 appointed from county at large 1 superintendent <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (one-year term)
Howard	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (one-year term)
Kent	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Montgomery	8	4 years	E	2 from county at large 5 from school districts 1 student (one-year term)
Prince George's ⁵	14	4 years	A/E	9 elected from school board districts 4 appointed by county 1 student (one-year term)
Queen Anne's	7	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
St. Mary's	6	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Somerset	5	4 years	E	All from commissioner districts
Talbot	9	4 years	E	7 from school board districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Washington ⁶	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Wicomico ⁷	7	5 years	A	All from county at large
Worcester	10	4 years	E	7 from commissioner districts 3 students (nonvoting, one-year term)

¹A = Appointed by Governor, except in Baltimore City, where board is appointed jointly by the Governor and the Mayor; E = Elected; and A/E = Combined appointed by Governor and elected board, except in Prince George's County.

²There are three steps to being appointed and retained as a member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. First, the School Board Nominating Commission selects nominees who are recommended to the Governor as candidates for appointment to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. The commission consists of 13 members – 3 appointed by the county executive, and 10 appointed from various county organizations. A board member begins serving immediately upon appointment; however, the board member must stand for “approval or rejection of the registered voters of the county” at the next general election. The board member is placed on the ballot, without opposition. If the voters retain the board member, he or she may complete the remainder of the 5-year term. If the voters reject the board member, the position becomes vacant and the process begins again. Chapters 177 and 178 of 2011, as well as an Opinion of the Attorney General (98 Op. Att’y Gen. 51 (May 22, 2013)), clarify that this three-step process applies not only to newly appointed board members, but also to incumbent board members seeking a second term.

³The nonstudent members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners are jointly appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City and the Governor from a list of qualified individuals submitted by the State Board of Education. Each member must be a resident of Baltimore City, and the membership must reflect the demographic diversity of Baltimore City. In addition, Chapter 723 of 2016 restructured the board to be a hybrid board with two members elected from the city at large, nine members jointly appointed by the Governor and the Mayor of Baltimore City, and one student member. The two elected board members will be elected at the general election in November 2022 and every four years thereafter.

⁴Chapters 480 and 481 of 2014 restructured the Baltimore County Board of Education from a 12-member appointed board (including 1 student member) to a 12-member board consisting of 4 at-large members appointed by the Governor, 7 nonpartisan members each elected from one of seven councilmanic districts, and a student member. The elected members will be elected at the general election in November 2018 and every four years thereafter. In addition, Chapters 480 and 481 of 2014 established the Baltimore County Nominating Commission. The commission is responsible for selecting eight nominees to be recommended to the Governor as qualified candidates for appointment to the Baltimore County Board of Education. The commission consists of 19 members of the county and must reflect the diversity of the county. Except in extenuating circumstances, the Governor must appoint members to the board of education from the list the nominating commission provides.

⁵Chapter 147 of 2013 altered the membership of the Prince George's County Board of Education by adding four appointed members to the existing elected board. The county executive appoints three members with certain experience requirements, and the county council appoints one member who must be a parent of a student in the county school system. If a seat held by an elected member becomes vacant, the county executive must appoint a qualified individual for the remainder of the term, with the appointment subject to rejection by a two-thirds vote of the county council.

⁶The Washington County Board of Education reports that the student member can only concur on votes and must abstain from certain matters.

⁷Chapter 169 of 2016, subject to referendum, required the restructuring of the Wicomico County Board of Education. In the 2016 general election, the county approved a fully elected board option, with five members each elected from one of the five councilmanic districts and two members elected from the county at large. Members will be elected at the general election in 2018 and every four years thereafter. The terms of board members who are in office on December 2, 2018, will expire on December 2, 2018.

Source: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 3-101 through 3-1405; Local Boards of Education