

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 804 (Senator Young)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County Board of Education - Student Member

This bill alters the duties, rights, and privileges of the student member of the Frederick County Board of Education. In addition, the bill modifies the manner in which the student member is elected.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect Frederick County Public School System operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill allows middle school students (in addition to high school students) to elect the student member of the board. In addition, a student member elected to the board must serve as the student member-elect and shadow the student member officeholder for the period of time between the election and the end of the officeholder's term. The student member must comply with all ethics and financial disclosure requirements that apply to nonstudent members.

The student member is prohibited from attending an executive session that relates to any matter the student member is prohibited from voting on, as specified by the bill, unless invited to attend by an affirmative vote of a majority of the nonstudent members of the

board. However, in no instance is the student member allowed to participate when the county board is carrying out a quasi-judicial function.

The bill specifies the matters on which the student member is prohibited from voting. The board is authorized to determine (on a majority vote of the nonstudent members and on a case-by-case basis) whether a matter under consideration is covered by the matters excluded under the bill. In addition, the nonstudent members may rescind the student member's right to vote on any or all matters if the student member (1) fails to attend 25% of the scheduled meetings and work sessions of the county board or (2) demonstrates a pattern of inadequate preparation for participation in meetings of the county board.

The student member may not be counted in determining whether a quorum of the county board has been met. In addition, if the student member's vote results in a tie vote, the matter must be decided without counting the student member's vote.

Current Law: The Frederick County Board of Education consists of eight members, including one nonvoting student member. The student member must be an eleventh or twelfth grade student in the county public school system elected by the high school students of the county in accordance with procedures established by the school system. The member serves for one year beginning on July 1 after the election of the member. The student member's purpose is to advise the county board on the thoughts and feeling of students. Unless invited to attend by an affirmative vote of a majority of the county board, the student member may not attend an executive session.

A listing of the local school systems with student members on the board of education and the voting status for student board members is provided in the **Appendix – Local Boards of Education**.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1028 (Delegates K. Young and Krimm) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Frederick County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2017
fn/hlb

Analysis by: Eric Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

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