

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 88

(Baltimore County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Selection of Members to the Baltimore County School Board

This bill prohibits the Governor from appointing as a member of the Baltimore County Board of Education an individual who is a candidate for election to the board during an election year. The bill also prohibits a candidate for election to the board from seeking an appointment to the board by the Governor (through nomination by the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission) during an election year. Prior to recommending to the Governor nominees for appointment to the board, the commission must hold at least three public hearings, each in a different councilmanic district. The bill also requires the Baltimore County Executive, rather than the Governor, to designate the chair of the commission.

Finally, the bill specifies that the terms of the four members appointed at large who are in office on the effective date of the bill (or the terms of their successors) expire at the end of December 2, 2018. The Governor must appoint four members from a list of nominees submitted by the commission to succeed the departing members, each to serve a four-year term beginning on December 3, 2018, until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 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 council districts (school board districts), and a student member. Restructuring of the board began December 7, 2015, and is fully realized by December 3, 2018. Every four years at the general election 1 member will be elected from each of seven council districts. Additional members are appointed within 30 days of the general election or of a vacancy on the board. In appointing members to the board, the Governor must ensure, to the extent practicable, that the total makeup of the board reflects gender, ethnic, and racial diversity.

Chapters 480 and 481 also established the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission and provided for the selection of its members. The commission must hold at least two public hearings on the selection of nominees before recommending nominees for appointment to the Governor. The Governor must designate as chair of the commission one of the eight members appointed from the legislative districts of the county. The term of the chair is four years, and the Governor may reappoint the chair for a second term.

Background: The Baltimore County Board of Education is 1 of 4 appointed school boards in the State. There are 17 elected boards in the State and 3 counties have hybrid 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): Baltimore County; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: kb/hlb
First Reader - January 31, 2017
Third Reader - March 16, 2017
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 16, 2017
Enrolled - May 5, 2017
Revised - Amendment(s) - May 5, 2017

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
HB 88/ Page 5