A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council in the State Department of Education to gather information on the needs of homeschool parents and homeschool umbrella schools and advise the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education, the General Assembly, and the Governor on matters relating to homeschooling; and generally relating to the Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 9.11–101 through 9.11–104 to be under the new title “Title 9.11. Homeschools”

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

TITLE 9.11. HOMESCHOOLS.


IN THIS TITLE, “COUNCIL” MEANS THE MARYLAND HOMESCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL.

9.11–102.
(A) There is a Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council in the Department.

(B) (1) The Council consists of the following members:

   (i) The State Superintendent, or the State Superintendent's designee;

   (ii) The Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or the Secretary's designee;

   (iii) Two individuals employed as homeschool liaisons through a local education agency, appointed by the State Superintendent or the State Superintendent’s designee;

   (iv) The following members appointed by the Speaker of the House:

       1. One individual employed by a homeschool umbrella school registered with the Department’s Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval; and

       2. One individual who is a veteran homeschool parent who has successfully educated at least one child to the completion of high school;

   (v) The following members appointed by the President of the Senate:

       1. One member employed by a homeschool umbrella school that is registered with the Department’s Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval; and

       2. One individual who is a veteran homeschool parent who has successfully educated at least one child to the completion of high school; and

   (vi) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the following members, selected by the Council:

       1. One individual representing the interests of gifted children who has direct experience homeschooling at least one of their own gifted children;
2. One individual representing the interests of special education students who has direct experience homeschooling at least one of their own special needs children;

3. One individual from Baltimore City, Baltimore County or Harford County;

4. One individual from Carroll County, Frederick County, Washington County, Allegany County, or Garrett County;

5. One individual from Howard County or Montgomery County;

6. One individual from Prince George’s County, Charles County, or St. Mary’s County;

7. One individual from Anne Arundel County or Calvert County; and

8. One individual from Cecil County, Kent County, Queen Anne’s County, Caroline County, Talbot County, Dorchester County, Wicomico County, Somerset County, or Worcester County.

(2) The members selected by the Council under paragraph (1)(vi) of this subsection shall:

(i) 1. For the first term that the Council is operating, be selected by the Council members specified under paragraph (1)(i) through (v) of this subsection; and

2. For each subsequent term that the Council is operating, be selected by the full membership of the Council; and

(ii) Be parents who have legally homeschooled a child for at least 4 years.

(3) Each member shall:

(i) Be a resident of the State;
(II) Be an individual of ability and integrity who is experienced in homeschooling;

(III) Represent the diversity of homeschool families that exist throughout the State, including diversity of homeschool philosophy, age, religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and

(IV) Represent the interests of the citizens of the State in promoting homeschooling as a trusted, parent-directed, quality school choice.

(C) (1) (I) The term of a member is 3 years.

(II) A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

(2) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed or selected and qualifies.

(3) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed or selected and qualifies.

(D) A member:

(1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Council; but

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

9.11–103.

(A) Each year, the Council shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its members.

(B) The Department shall provide staff for the Council.

9.11–104.

The Council shall:
(1) Meet at least four times each year at a time and place designated by the chair;

(2) Gather information on the needs of homeschool parents and homeschool umbrella schools in the state; and

(3) Advise the State Superintendent, the State Board, the General Assembly, and the Governor on matters relating to homeschooling.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.