SENATE BILL 157

By: Senator Carter

Requested: October 28, 2021
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Student Members and Task Force to Study Compensation

FOR the purpose of altering the number of, the voting rights of, and the process for selecting student members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; establishing the Task Force to Study Compensation for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; and generally relating to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education
Section 3–108.1(c) and (n)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education
Section 3–108.1(d) and (m)
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

3–108.1.

(c) There is a Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners of the Baltimore City Public School System.
The board consists of:

(i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, nine voting members appointed by the Mayor from a list of qualified individuals submitted to the Mayor by the panel;

(ii) Two elected voting members; and

(iii) [One] TWO voting student [member appointed] MEMBERS ELECTED as provided in subsection (m) of this section.

(2) If the Mayor elects not to appoint a member from a list submitted by the panel under paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection, the Mayor shall reconvene the panel to submit additional names of qualified candidates.

(m) (1) (I) The student [member] MEMBERS shall be [a student] REGULARLY enrolled STUDENTS IN THEIR JUNIOR OR SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL in the Baltimore City Public School System who shall be [selected by the Associated Student Congress of Baltimore City] ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH.

(II) 1. THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE STUDENT MEMBERS SHALL:

   A. BE AS AGREED ON BY THE BOARD AND THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT CONGRESS OF BALTIMORE CITY; AND

   B. INCLUDE A PROCESS TO REPLACE ONE OF THE FINAL CANDIDATES IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO PROCEED IN THE ELECTION.

   2. ANY STUDENT ENROLLED IN A MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL IN THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY:

   A. NOMINATE A STUDENT MEMBER CANDIDATE;

   B. VOTE FOR DElegates FROM THE STUDENT’S SCHOOL, WHO IN TURN VOTE IN A NOMINATING CONVENTION TO REDUCE TO FOUR THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT MEMBER IF THERE ARE FIVE OR MORE CANDIDATES; AND

   C. VOTE DIRECTLY FOR TWO OF THE REMAINING STUDENT MEMBER CANDIDATES.
3. The candidates receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes in the direct election shall become the alternate student members and shall serve if a student member is unable to complete their elected term.

(2) The term of a student member is 1 year.

(3) A student member may not serve more than two consecutive full terms.

(4) The student [member] MEMBERS may vote on all matters before the board [except] INCLUDING those relating to:

(i) Personnel;
(ii) Capital and operating budgets;
(iii) School closings, reopenings, and boundaries;
(iv) Collective bargaining decisions;
(v) Student disciplinary matters; and
(vi) Appeals to the board as provided under §§ 4–205 and 6–202 of this article.

(5) The student [member] MEMBERS may [not] attend or participate in an executive or special session of the board.

(n) Any action by the board shall require:

(1) A quorum of a majority of the voting members then serving; and
(2) The affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members then serving.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Compensation for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) five members, appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City, of which:

(i) not more than two may be members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; and
(ii) one member shall be a resident of Baltimore City who is not employed by the City, State, or federal government; and

(2) four members, appointed by the City Council of Baltimore City, of which one member shall be a resident of Baltimore City who is not employed by the City, State, or federal government.

(c) The Mayor of Baltimore City shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Office of the Mayor of Baltimore City shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) study the compensation of members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, including the student members; and

(2) make recommendations regarding the amount of and revenue stream for any proposed compensation to begin with the Baltimore City budget for fiscal year 2024.

(g) On or before April 1, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.