

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 55

(Senator Sydnor)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Baltimore County Board of Education – Retention of Counsel

This bill expands the authority of the Baltimore County Board of Education to retain counsel by specifying that the board may retain counsel to represent it in *any* legal matter affecting the board. Under current law, the board may only retain counsel in legal matters involving disputes with the county government. The bill also allows the board to contract for the payment of a reasonable fee to the counsel. If the board retains counsel, funds for legal counsel must be provided in the annual budget of the board. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: To the extent the Baltimore County Board of Education chooses to retain counsel, board expenditures increase.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore County Board of Education may retain counsel to represent it in legal matters that involve disputes with the Baltimore County government. In comparison, all other county boards in Maryland may retain counsel to represent the board in legal matters that affect the board.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 18, 2022
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