

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 157

(Senator Carter)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

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

This bill expands the voting rights of the student member of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The bill also alters the selection process for the student member by requiring that the student member be elected by the middle and high school students of the city, in accordance with procedures established by the board in collaboration with the Associated Student Congress of Baltimore City. Finally, the bill establishes a task force to study board member compensation and additional student membership. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022, with the provisions relating to the task force terminating on June 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Baltimore City and Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) can implement the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill includes several provisions relating to the student member of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The bill also establishes a task force to

study the compensation of board members and whether an additional student member should be added to the board.

Student Member

Under the bill, the student board member must be a regularly enrolled junior or senior year student in BCPS. The voting rights of the student board member are expanded to include matters relating to capital and operating budgets; school closings, reopenings, and boundaries; and student disciplinary matters. The student board member is still prohibited from voting on matters relating to personnel and collective bargaining decisions. Additionally, the student board member may attend and participate in an executive session of the board.

Task Force

The bill establishes the Task Force to Study Compensation and Student Members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The Office of the Mayor of Baltimore City must provide staff for the task force. A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations. The task force must (1) study the compensation of all members of the board; (2) study the possibility and effect of adding a second student member to the board; and (3) make recommendations regarding the amount and revenue stream for any proposed compensation beginning in fiscal 2024. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by April 1, 2023.

Current Law: The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners consists of nine appointed members from the city at large and one student member. Members are appointed by the mayor and serve three-year terms.

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners is the only appointed school board in the State. There are 19 elected school boards and four hybrid boards. The **Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local boards of education.

Beginning with the 2022 general election, the board will be restructured as a hybrid board with two members elected from the city at large, nine members appointed by the mayor, and one student member. Elected members will serve a four-year term, whereas appointed members will serve a three-year term.

Student Member

Under current law, the student member must be a student enrolled in BCPS. The student member must be selected by the Associated Student Congress of Baltimore City and may not serve more than two consecutive one-year terms.

Student members may vote on all matters before the board except those relating to (1) personnel; (2) capital and operating budgets; (3) school closings, reopening, and boundaries; (4) collective bargaining decisions; (5) student disciplinary matters; and (6) appeals to the board relating to suspension or dismissal of teachers, principals, and other professional personnel. The student member may not attend or participate in an executive or special session of the board.

Compensation

Each member of the board serves without compensation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 433 (Delegate Wells) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 18, 2022
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Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership

Membership

The composition of the local boards of education varies, with members serving three- to four-year terms. Nineteen counties have elected school boards, four counties have combined appointed/elected school boards, and one school board consists of appointed members only, until the 2022 general election when it will become an appointed/elected school board. Twenty-two boards have student members but only eight boards allow student members to vote, which generally excludes collective bargaining and other personnel and budgetary decisions. **Exhibit 1** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local school boards.

Exhibit 1 Local Boards of Education As of January 2022

School System	Number of Members	Term	E	Means of Selection ¹
Allegany	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Anne Arundel ²	8	4 years	E	7 from councilmanic 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	4 years	A/E	4 from county at large (appointed) 7 from councilmanic districts (elected) 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)

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection ¹
Cecil	6	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Charles ⁵	10	4 years	E	1 from county at large 8 from commissioner districts 1 student (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)
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	2 from county at large 5 from councilmanic districts 1 student (one-year term)
Kent ⁶	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 ⁷	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

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection ¹
Talbot	9	4 years	E	7 from school board districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Washington ⁸	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Wicomico ⁹	7	4 years	E	5 from councilmanic districts 2 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 by the mayor; E = Elected; and A/E = Combined appointed by Governor and elected board, except in Prince George's County. Entries for local boards that are at any point in the process of transitioning between means of selection reflect the final state the board will be in once the transition fully takes effect.

²Chapter 473 of 2017 restructured the Anne Arundel County Board of Education from a nine-member appointed board to an eight-member elected board consisting of seven elected members (one from each of the seven councilmanic districts on a nonpartisan basis) and one student member. The terms of the elected members are staggered; four members were elected at the 2018 general election and three members were elected at the 2020 general election as the terms of previously appointed board members expired. In this manner, the elected board is phased-in. The members elected in November 2018 serve a six-year term, while the members elected in 2020 serve a four-year term. Thus, beginning in 2024, all members must stand for election. An elected member of the board generally serves a four-year term beginning on the first Monday in December after the member's election and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

³Chapter 593 of 2017 repealed the role of the Governor in making appointments to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; it also repealed the Governor's role in filling board vacancies and removing board members. As a result, board members are appointed solely by the Mayor of Baltimore City until the appointed/elected board established by the legislation is executed at the 2022 general election. Chapter 593 also established the Baltimore City Public School Board Community Panel (which the mayor must convene) and specified its membership. The purpose of the panel is to select nominees to be recommended to the mayor as qualified candidates for appointment to the board (including candidates for vacancies). If the mayor elects not to appoint a member or to fill a vacancy from a list submitted by the panel, the mayor must reconvene the panel to submit additional names of qualified candidates. Beginning with the 2022 general election, the board will be restructured as a hybrid board with two members elected from the city at large, nine members appointed by the mayor, and one student member. Elected members will serve a four-year term whereas appointed members will serve a three-year term.

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 7 councilmanic districts, and a student member. The elected members were elected at the general election in November 2018 and serve four-year terms. In addition, Chapters 480 and 481 established the Baltimore County Nominating Commission. Generally, the commission is responsible for submitting to the Governor at least two names for each vacancy on the board. The commission consists of 19 members of the county and must reflect the

diversity of the county. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the Governor must appoint members to the board of education from the list the nominating commission provides.

⁵Chapters 404 and 405 of 2021 added two new members to the Charles County Board of Education and altered the selection method for board members by requiring that eight board members be elected from the county commissioner districts (two from each of the four districts) and one board member be elected from the county at-large. Previously, the seven board members were all elected from the county at-large. All seats are subject to election in November 2022, however, the at-large member elected in November 2022 must serve for a two-year (instead of the usual four-year) term until a successor is elected to a full term in November 2024. Chapters 404 and 405 of 2021 also provided the student member with voting rights, subject to certain restrictions.

⁶Although not in statute, the Kent County Board of Education reports that there is a nonvoting student member of the board and that he or she does not attend closed sessions.

⁷Chapter 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.

⁸Although not in statute, the Washington County Board of Education reports that there is a student member of the board and that he or she can only concur on votes and must abstain from certain matters.

⁹Chapter 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 were elected at the general election in 2018 and serve four-year terms.

Source: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 3-101 through 3-1405; Local Boards of Education