

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 951

(Howard County Senators)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

Howard County - Board of Education - Terms

This bill alters the terms of the members of the Howard County Board of Education so that the terms of office of the five members elected from a councilmanic district are staggered and the terms of office of the two members elected at large are staggered, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect Howard County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The terms of office of the members elected from a councilmanic district at the 2024 election are (1) for the two elected members who receive the highest percentage of votes, six years, and (2) for the three elected members who receive the lowest percentage of votes, four years.

The terms of office of the two members elected at large at the 2026 election are (1) for the individual who receives the highest number of votes, six years, and (2) for the individual who receives the second highest number of votes, four years.

The successors to (1) the offices of the three members elected at the 2024 election who received the lowest percentage of votes must be elected at the 2028 election and every

four years thereafter and must serve for a term of four years; (2) the offices of the two members elected at the 2024 election who received the highest percentage of votes must be elected at the 2030 election and every four years thereafter and must serve for a term of four years; (3) the office of the member elected at large at the 2026 election who received the highest number of votes in that election must be elected at the 2032 election and every four years thereafter and must serve a term of four years; and (4) the office of the member elected at large at the 2026 election who received the second highest number of votes in that election must be elected at the 2030 election and every four years thereafter and must serve a term of four years.

In the event of a tie between elected members at the 2024 or 2026 elections, the local board of elections must administer a random drawing to determine the term of office for each elected member involved in the tie.

The bill requires that the terms of the members of the board in office when the bill takes effect expire on December 2, 2024, for the members elected from councilmanic districts, and on December 7, 2026, for the members elected at large.

Current Law: The Howard County Board of Education consists of seven elected members and one student member. Of the seven elected members, (1) one member is elected from each of the five councilmanic districts in the county, elected by the voters of that district and (2) two members are elected at large by the voters of the county. The terms of the elected members are staggered, and each term of office begins on the first Monday in December after the election of a member and until a successor is elected and qualifies. The term of office of each member elected from a councilmanic district, beginning at the 2020 election, is four years. The term of office of each member elected at large, beginning at the 2022 election, is four years. The successors to the offices elected at the 2020 and 2022 elections, respectively, serve for a term of four years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1093 (Howard County Delegation) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Howard County; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
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First Reader - March 9, 2023

Third Reader - March 24, 2023

Revised - Amendment(s) - March 24, 2023

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