

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 855 (Washington County Senators)  
Finance and Education, Energy, and the  
Environment

---

**Washington County - Board of License Commissioners and Board of Community  
College Trustees - Membership**

---

This bill alters, in Washington County only, the composition of the board of license commissioners and the board of community college trustees. Under the bill, membership on both such boards must be based on the results of the preceding election of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners. Specifically, for the board of license commissioners, two members must belong to the political party that received the highest aggregated number of votes, and one member must belong to the political party that received the second highest aggregated number of votes. For the board of community college trustees, four members must belong to the political party that received the highest aggregated number of votes, and three members must belong to the political party that received the second highest aggregated number of votes.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill only affects local government operations.

**Local Effect:** None, the bill is procedural in nature and does not affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*Board of License Commissioners*

The Washington County Board of License Commissioners consists of three members serving six-year terms, each appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the

Maryland Senate if the Maryland Senate is in session when the appointment is made (otherwise by the Governor alone). Each member must be a resident and voter of the county as well as an individual of high moral character and integrity and of recognized business capacity. No more than two members of the board may belong to the same political party.

A board member may not have a pecuniary or other interest in any phase of the manufacture, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages. Annual salaries for the board must be set by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners to be payable from the alcoholic beverage license fees.

### *Board of Community College Trustees*

The Washington County Board of Community College Trustees (for Hagerstown Community College) consists of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each of the members must be residents of Washington County at time of appointment and must maintain residency in Washington County throughout the term of appointment. There is no restriction as to the political parties of members of the board.

State law generally establishes that community college boards have seven members serving staggered six-year terms, with several specified exceptions. Therefore, there are variations in the number and terms of board members. **Appendix 1 – Selected Requirements for Board Members of Community Colleges** shows characteristics of the various boards. With one exception, the boards are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland Senate. For Chesapeake College, the board is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland House of Delegates.

**Additional Comments:** Although the bill establishes additional requirements for membership on both boards based on party affiliation and the results of the quadrennial election of Washington County Board of County Commissioners, it does not modify the six-year terms for either board. Accordingly, it is unclear how the requirement for political affiliation will be implemented *vis-à-vis* terms of sitting members.

---

## **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** HB 921 (Washington County Delegation) - Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2024  
rh/clb

---

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510

## Appendix 1 - Selected Requirements for Board Members of Community Colleges

<u>Community College</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Term Length (in Years)</u>	<u>Term Limits</u>	<u>Residency Requirements</u>
Allegany	7	6	No Limit	None
Anne Arundel	8 <sup>1</sup>	4	3 <sup>2</sup>	Yes <sup>3</sup>
Baltimore City	9 <sup>1</sup>	6	2 <sup>4</sup>	Some <sup>5</sup>
Baltimore	15	5	2 <sup>4</sup>	See Note <sup>6</sup>
Carroll	7	6	No Limit	None
Cecil	7	6	No Limit	None
Chesapeake	10	5	3	Yes <sup>7</sup>
Frederick	7	5	3	Yes <sup>8</sup>
Garrett	7	6	No Limit	None
Hagerstown	7	6	No Limit	Yes <sup>9</sup>
Harford	9	5	2 <sup>4</sup>	Yes <sup>10</sup>
Howard	7	6	No Limit	Some <sup>11</sup>
Montgomery	10 <sup>1,12</sup>	6	No Limit	Some <sup>13</sup>
Prince George's	9 <sup>1</sup>	5	2 <sup>4</sup>	Yes <sup>14</sup>
Southern Maryland	9	5	2 <sup>4</sup>	Yes <sup>15</sup>
Wor-Wic	7	6	No Limit	None

<sup>1</sup> The board includes a student member serving a one-year term. The student body elects the student board member in Prince George's County.

<sup>2</sup> Consecutive full terms.

<sup>3</sup> All members must be a resident of Anne Arundel County.

<sup>4</sup> Consecutive terms.

<sup>5</sup> All members must be a resident of the State. The majority must be residents of Baltimore City.

<sup>6</sup> Of the members, one serves at large and the other 14 serve from the seven councilmanic districts in Baltimore County, two from each district.

<sup>7</sup> Two members from each county that supports Chesapeake College (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot).

<sup>8</sup> All seven members must be a resident of Frederick County.

<sup>9</sup> All members must be a resident of Washington County at the time of appointment and maintain residency in Washington County throughout their term of appointment.

<sup>10</sup> All members must be a resident of Harford County. The Harford County board includes three at-large members and one from each of the six council districts.

<sup>11</sup> Of the seven members, at least six must be residents of Howard County at the time of appointment and maintain residency in Howard County throughout the term of appointment.

<sup>12</sup> A local nominating committee must submit to the Governor the names of two to four candidates per vacancy, from which the Governor must appoint a new member.

<sup>13</sup> The student member must be a resident of the county.

<sup>14</sup> All members must be a resident of Prince George's County.

<sup>15</sup> Members must be a resident of the State. Each of the southern Maryland counties must be represented by at least three members who are residents of the county.

Source: Annotated Code of Maryland