

Chapter 429

(House Bill 1524)

AN ACT concerning

**Wicomico County Board of Education – Election of Members, Student Member,
and Compensation**

FOR the purpose of altering, beginning with a certain election, the districts from which certain members of the Wicomico County Board of Education are elected; adding ~~a~~ at least one student member to the county board; providing that the members of the county board are entitled to certain compensation and reimbursement; and generally relating to the Wicomico County Board of Education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 3–13A–01, 3–13A–02, 3–13A–03(a)(2), 3–13A–04, 3–13A–06, and 4–107(e)(7)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 3–13A–03(a)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 3–13A–07 and 3–13A–08

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – Education

Section 4–107(e)(6)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

3–13A–01.

(a) (1) The Wicomico County Board consists of [seven]:

(I) **SEVEN** nonpartisan elected voting members; AND

(II) ~~ONE~~ AT LEAST ONE STUDENT MEMBER.

(2) [The] **BEGINNING WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 2026, THE** seven **ELECTED** members shall be elected [as follows:

(i) One member] from each of the [five] **SEVEN** councilmanic districts in the county, elected by the voters of that district[; and

(ii) Two members at large, elected by the voters of the county].

(b) (1) A candidate who becomes an elected member of the county board must be a resident and registered voter of Wicomico County.

(2) (i) An elected member who no longer resides in Wicomico County may not continue as a member of the board.

(ii) A member elected from a councilmanic district who no longer resides in that district may not continue as a member of the board.

(3) If the boundary line of a Wicomico County councilmanic district is changed, the term of an incumbent **ELECTED** member of the county board who no longer resides in that councilmanic district because of the change is not affected during this term.

3–13A–02.

(a) The seven **ELECTED** members of the Wicomico County Board shall be elected:

(1) At the general election in 2018 and at the general election every 4 years thereafter; and

(2) In accordance with § 3–13A–01 of this subtitle and Title 8, Subtitle 8 of the Election Law Article.

(b) (1) The terms of the **ELECTED** members are as provided in this subsection.

(2) 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.

(3) The term of office of each member is 4 years.

3–13A–03.

(a) (1) There is a Wicomico County School Board Nominating Commission.

(2) The purpose of the Commission is to select nominees to recommend to the Wicomico County Council as qualified candidates for appointment to fill a vacancy **OF AN ELECTED MEMBER** on the Wicomico County Board.

3-13A-04.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Wicomico County Council shall appoint an individual to fill a vacancy **OF AN ELECTED MEMBER** on the county board in accordance with § 3-13A-03 of this subtitle.

(b) (1) If a vacancy for **[a] AN ELECTED** member occurs before the date that is 30 days before the date for filing a certificate of candidacy for the primary election in the presidential election year, the individual appointed under subsection (a) of this section shall serve only until a successor is elected by the voters at the next general election.

(2) Candidates for the vacated office may be nominated at a primary election in the same manner as for any other position on the county board.

3-13A-06.

At the first meeting of the county board in December of each year, the county board shall elect a chair and vice chair from among the **ELECTED** members.

3-13A-07.

(A) ~~THE~~ A STUDENT MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL BE SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY BOARD.

(B) (1) ~~THE~~ EACH STUDENT MEMBER SHALL:

(I) BE AN 11TH OR 12TH GRADE STUDENT IN GOOD STANDING AND REGULARLY ENROLLED IN THE WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM;

(II) SERVE FOR 1 YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1 AFTER THE SELECTION OF THE MEMBER;

(III) BE A NONVOTING MEMBER; AND

(IV) ADVISE THE COUNTY BOARD ON THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF STUDENTS IN THE WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(2) UNLESS INVITED TO ATTEND BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD, ~~THE~~ A STUDENT MEMBER MAY NOT ATTEND A CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

3-13A-08.

(A) (1) THE CHAIR OF THE COUNTY BOARD IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ANNUALLY AS COMPENSATION THE GREATER OF:

(I) \$4,000; OR

(II) A SALARY SET BY THE WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL.

(2) THE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNTY BOARD AND THE OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ANNUALLY AS COMPENSATION THE GREATER OF:

(I) \$3,700; OR

(II) A SALARY SET BY THE WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL.

(B) AFTER SUBMITTING VOUCHERS UNDER THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD, THE ELECTED MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES AS PROVIDED IN THE COUNTY BOARD'S BUDGET.

(C) (1) ON THE SUBMISSION OF EXPENSE VOUCHERS, ~~THE~~ A STUDENT MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES FOR THE COUNTY BOARD.

(2) A STUDENT MEMBER MAY BE GRANTED A SCHOLARSHIP AS AUTHORIZED BY THE COUNTY BOARD.

~~(2)~~ (3) ~~THE~~ A STUDENT MEMBER IS NOT ENTITLED TO ANY COMPENSATION OR PAYMENT OTHER THAN THAT SPECIFIED UNDER ~~PARAGRAPH (1)~~ PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR THE STUDENT MEMBER'S WORK AS ~~THE~~ A STUDENT MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

4-107.

(e) [(6) Each member of the Wicomico County Board shall receive the following amounts annually as compensation:

(i) Member \$3,700; and

(ii) Chairman \$4,000.]

[(7)] (6) Each member of the Worcester County Board shall receive an amount annually for traveling and other expenses as determined by the County Commissioners, but in the amount of at least:

(i) Member \$2,000; and

(ii) Chairman \$2,400.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.