

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 813

(Howard County Senators)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Appropriations

**Howard Community College - Board of Trustees, Meetings, and Contracts -
Alterations
Ho. Co. 1-25**

This bill adds two additional members to the Board of Community College Trustees for Howard County. The board must include an opportunity for public comment at each meeting and must record and post online in a specified manner. As part of ongoing training for board members and at least every two years, board members must undergo training specific to board governance, structure, responsibilities, and roles. The board must survey employee satisfaction annually via specified means and redact any human resources or personnel-related feedback before public release of survey results. The bill requires the board to submit a report to the General Assembly on the status of the faculty union contract every six months beginning January 1, 2026, until a union contract is finalized. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is directed at Howard Community College (HCC).

Local Effect: HCC expenditures may increase minimally to record and post board meetings online and conduct the annual employee satisfaction survey. HCC can accommodate additional board members, provide required training, and submit faculty union contract reports within existing resources. Howard County revenues and expenditures are not affected, as funding formulas are not affected. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill expands the number of members who must be residents of Howard County at the time of appointment and must maintain residency in Howard County throughout the term of appointment from six to eight. The initial term of one additional appointed member must expire in 2032 and the other new member's term must expire in 2033.

Board Meetings

The board must make an audio or video recording of each meeting and make the recording available to the public on the board's website without charge and, to the extent practicable, within two business days after the recording is made.

Survey

Each year the board must select an independent, nationally recognized survey instrument to carry out an anonymous survey on employee satisfaction at HCC and submit an unedited report on its survey findings directly to the board.

Reporting

Every six months beginning January 1, 2026, until a union contract is finalized, the board must submit a report to the General Assembly on the status of the faculty union contract.

Current Law: The Howard County Board of Trustees consists of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the members, at least six must be residents of Howard County at the time of appointment and must maintain residency in Howard County throughout the appointment. Members serve six-year terms.

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** 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.

Local Fiscal Effect: If HCC lacks sufficient recording infrastructure, including recording equipment, technology support, and online hosting, costs may increase. However, HCC may minimize expenses by using low-cost options, such as recording on an existing computer and posting to free or low-cost online video platforms.

Expenditures may increase to contract with a nationally recognized survey instrument. While the exact cost of such a survey depends on the instrument selected, the overall cost is likely minimal.

Training can likely be handled using existing resources. Members of the board serve without compensation but may be entitled to reimbursement for certain authorized expenses. Any such reimbursement is assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Howard County; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2025
rh/clb Third Reader - March 24, 2025
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Appendix 1

Selected Community College Board Member Requirements

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

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

² Consecutive full terms

³ All members must be a resident of Anne Arundel County.

⁴ Consecutive terms.

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

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

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

⁸ All seven members must be a resident of Frederick County.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ All members must be a resident of Harford County for the duration of their term.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ The student member must be a resident of the county.

¹⁴ All members must be a resident of Prince George's County.

¹⁵ 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