

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

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

Senate Bill 813 (Howard County Senators)  
Education, Energy, and the Environment

---

**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 and requires the Howard County Senate Delegation, instead of the Governor, to appoint members to the board with the advice and consent of the Senate. The board must include an opportunity for public comment at each meeting and must record and post online in a specified manner. Every two years, board members must undergo training on the purpose of a board of trustees. The board must survey employee satisfaction annually via specified means. The bill specifies requirements for contract renewal of the Howard Community College (HCC) president, including certain limitations on compensation following the termination of a contract. The bill requires the board to submit a report to the General Assembly on the status of the faculty union contract annually by January 1, 2026, through January 1, 2028. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is directed at 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. The fiscal impact of limiting post-termination compensation for the HCC president cannot be estimated, as it depends on future contract terms. 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 12 hours after the recording is made.

### *Training*

The biennial training must be provided by an independent nonprofit organization.

### *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.

### *Contract*

Before the board renews the contract of the president executed on or after July 1, 2025, the compensation following the termination of the contract must be equal to the compensation set for that remaining time period if one year or less remains on the contract and equal to one year's compensation plus one month's compensation for each additional full year remaining on the contract if greater than one year remains on the contract.

### *Reporting*

Annually from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028, 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.

The bill limits post-termination compensation for the HCC president, but the fiscal impact cannot be estimated, as it depends on future contract terms. While the change may reduce severance costs, it could also affect contract negotiations and increase salary demands.

---

### **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  
caw/clb

---

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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

---

## 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 <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 for the duration of their term.

<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

---