

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 658

(Delegate Ebersole)

Judiciary and Ways and Means

Judicial Proceedings and Education, Energy,
and the Environment

Juvenile Services Education Board - Alterations

This bill alters the Juvenile Services Education Board by (1) staggering the terms of appointed members; (2) imposing a two consecutive term limit on appointed members (members appointed after a term begins remain eligible for reappointment to two consecutive full terms); (3) authorizing the Secretary of Higher Education and the State Superintendent of Schools to each assign a designee to serve on the board; (4) reducing the number of required meetings from once per month to 10 times per year and not more than once per month; and (5) authorizing a majority of members, the chair of the board, or the Secretary of Juvenile Services to call special meetings of the board that do not count toward the monthly limit. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is procedural in nature and does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The terms of the two longest serving appointed members serving on June 30, 2025, must terminate on that date. The term of the longest serving appointed member on each of June 30, 2026, 2027, and 2028 must terminate on that date. In the case of a tie for longest serving appointed member on any specified date, a randomized lottery

must determine which member's term will end from among those longest serving members on the date in question.

Current Law: Chapter 147 of 2021 transferred the Juvenile Services Education Program from the Maryland State Department of Education to the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and established the Juvenile Services Education Board to oversee the program. Through the program, DJS oversees and provides comprehensive educational services to all juveniles placed in a DJS-operated detention and residential facility.

The Juvenile Services Education Board must meet publicly in the State at least once a month at the times determined by a majority of the members then serving, the board chair, or the Secretary of Juvenile Services. The board consists of;

- the Secretary of Juvenile Services;
- the Secretary of Higher Education;
- the State Superintendent of Schools;
- the Attorney General of the State, or the Attorney General's designee;
- an educator employed by the State who is engaged in the education of juveniles residing in a residential facility and who must be elected by the educators employed by DJS;
- a representative of the Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
- five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Appointed members serve for a term of four years until a successor is appointed and qualifies. The appointed members of the board must possess a high level of knowledge and expertise in specified areas. An appointed member who is appointed after a term begins serves only for the remainder of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. To the extent practicable, the Governor must fill any vacancy for an appointed member on the board within 60 days of the vacancy. The Governor may remove an appointed member only for cause.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2025
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