

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 369
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

**County Superintendent of Prince George's County - Selection Process -
Alteration
PG 506-25**

This bill alters the selection process for the Prince George’s County Superintendent of Schools by requiring the county board of education to select the county superintendent instead of the county executive. In addition, the bill repeals the requirement that the State Superintendent of Schools approve the appointment of the county superintendent in writing or otherwise provide reasons for disapproval in writing. The bill also removes the requirement that the county superintendent be eligible to be issued a certificate for the office by the State Superintendent. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill is procedural in nature with no direct effect on Prince George’s County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Under the bill, the Prince George’s County Superintendent of Schools must be selected by a majority of the members of the county board of education from among the candidates considered by the county board after agreement on contract terms negotiated by the chair of the county board. In doing so, the bill also removes the

county executive and related search committee from the selection process required under current law.

Under the bill, the county board must complete the selection of the county superintendent on or before June 30 in the year a term begins unless the county board decides to select the incumbent superintendent, in which case the county board must complete the selection by March 1 of that year. If the county board is unable to select a county superintendent by July 1 of the year a term begins, the county board must select an interim county superintendent to serve until July 1 after the selection.

In accordance with the new process, the bill also makes several technical changes to language regarding *selection* (instead of appointment) of a county superintendent.

Current Law: Legislation adopted by the General Assembly has affected the composition and authority of the Prince George’s County Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools several times in recent years. Major legislation affecting the county board and school superintendent was enacted in 2002, 2008, 2013, 2022, and 2023. Most recently, Chapter 792 of 2023 renamed the Chief Executive Officer of Prince George’s County Public Schools to be the Superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools, among other things.

Generally, the county superintendent must be selected by the county executive and appointed by the county board after agreement on contract terms negotiated by the chair of the county board. To serve as county superintendent, an individual must be eligible to be issued a certificate for the office by the State Superintendent of Schools, have graduated from an accredited college or university, and have completed two years of graduate work at an accredited college or university, including public school administration, supervision, and methods of teaching.

The county superintendent serves a four–year term beginning on July 1 and continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. By February 1 of the year in which a term ends, the county superintendent must notify the county executive and the county board if the superintendent is a candidate for reappointment. In the year a term begins, the county executive must select a county superintendent between February 1 and June 1, and the county board must complete the appointment on or before June 30, unless the county executive decides to select the incumbent superintendent, in which case the county board must complete the reappointment no later than March 1 of that year. If the county board is unable to appoint a county superintendent by July 1 of the year a term begins, the county executive must select and the county board must appoint an interim county superintendent to serve until July 1 after the appointment.

The county superintendent must be selected by the county executive from a list of three nominees recommended by a search committee composed of (1) one member of the State Board of Education, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools, and (2) two residents of Prince George's County appointed by the Governor. The committee must be chaired by a member selected by the State Superintendent. The appointment of the county superintendent is not valid unless approved in writing by the State Superintendent. If the State Superintendent disapproves an appointment, the State Superintendent must give the reasons for disapproval in writing to the county board and the county executive. On notification of pending criminal charges against the county superintendent as specified, the county board may suspend the county superintendent with pay until the final disposition of the criminal charges.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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caw/hlb

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