

HOUSE BILL 586

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6lr0832
CF SB 535

By: **Delegates Behler, Ebersole, Forbes, D. Jones, Pruski, Ruth, and Woorman**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

Reassigned: Ways and Means, February 5, 2026

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership – Student Member**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board of library trustees to provide for the
4 selection of a student member of the board; establishing the qualifications, term of
5 office, and voting rights of the student member of a county board of library trustees,
6 if selected; and generally relating to the membership of county boards of library
7 trustees.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Education

10 Section 23–403 and 23–404

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Education**

16 23–403.

17 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection **AND**
18 **SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION**, each board of library trustees consists of seven

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **APPOINTED** members appointed by the county governing body from nominees submitted
2 by the board of library trustees.

3 (2) A board that existed before 1945 under a corporate charter may
4 continue as constituted if:

5 (i) It has at least seven **APPOINTED** members;

6 (ii) The **APPOINTED** members are chosen on the basis of character,
7 ability, and demonstrated interest in library matters; and

8 (iii) The **APPOINTED** members meet the qualifications required
9 under subsection (b) of this section.

10 (3) In Harford County, the Board of Trustees consists of at least 7
11 **APPOINTED** members, but not more than 11 **APPOINTED** members, appointed by the
12 county governing body from nominees submitted by the Board of Trustees.

13 (b) The **APPOINTED** members of the board shall be:

14 (1) Representative of the area the library serves; and

15 (2) Residents of the county that the library serves.

16 (c) (1) **(I)** Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section, [a]
17 **AN APPOINTED** member of a board serves for a term of 5 years and until a successor is
18 appointed and qualifies.

19 **(II)** [These] **THE terms OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS** are
20 staggered as required by the terms of the **APPOINTED** members serving on the board as of
21 July 1, 1978.

22 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, [a] **AN**
23 **APPOINTED** member may be reappointed but may not serve more than two consecutive
24 terms.

25 (3) **[A] AN APPOINTED** member appointed to fill a vacancy in an
26 unexpired term:

27 (i) Serves only for the remainder of that term and until a successor
28 is appointed and qualifies; and

29 (ii) Is eligible for appointment to serve two additional consecutive
30 terms.

1 (4) [A] AN APPOINTED member of the Board of the Prince George's
2 County Memorial Library System may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms of
3 office.

4 (d) In Charles County, [a] AN APPOINTED member of the Board serves for a term
5 of 4 years.

6 (e) In Harford County, [a] AN APPOINTED member of the Board serves for a term
7 of 5 years, beginning on July 1, and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

8 (f) Each member of a board serves without compensation.

9 **(G) (1) A BOARD MAY PROVIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF A STUDENT**
10 **MEMBER OF THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.**

11 **(2) A STUDENT MEMBER SHALL BE SELECTED BY A PROCESS**
12 **ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD.**

13 **(3) THE STUDENT MEMBER OF A BOARD SHALL:**

14 **(I) BE A JUNIOR OR SENIOR YEAR STUDENT ENROLLED IN A**
15 **PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL OR A HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM IN THE**
16 **COUNTY THAT THE LIBRARY SERVES, WHO IS OF GOOD CHARACTER AND, IN THE**
17 **CASE OF A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL, IS IN**
18 **GOOD STANDING IN THE STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL;**

19 **(II) BE SELECTED IN THE STUDENT'S SOPHOMORE OR JUNIOR**
20 **YEAR BY A METHOD ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD;**

21 **(III) HAVE AN INTEREST IN LIBRARY MATTERS; AND**

22 **(IV) SERVE A TERM OF 1 YEAR.**

23 **(4) A STUDENT MEMBER SELECTED TO FILL A VACANCY IN AN**
24 **UNEXPIRED TERM:**

25 **(I) SERVES ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM AND**
26 **UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS SELECTED AND QUALIFIES; AND**

27 **(II) IS ELIGIBLE FOR SELECTION FOR A FULL TERM IF THE**
28 **STUDENT MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS**
29 **SUBSECTION.**

1 **(5) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A**
2 **STUDENT MEMBER OF A BOARD MAY VOTE ON ALL POLICY MATTERS BEFORE THE**
3 **BOARD.**

4 **(II) A BOARD MAY ADOPT A POLICY OR BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE A**
5 **STUDENT MEMBER TO VOTE ON ADDITIONAL NONPOLICY MATTERS BEFORE THE**
6 **BOARD.**

7 23–404.

8 (a) Each year, each board of library trustees:

9 (1) Shall elect one of its **APPOINTED** members as its [chairman] **CHAIR**;
10 and

11 (2) May elect any other officer it requires **FROM AMONG THE APPOINTED**
12 **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.**

13 (b) The treasurer of each board of library trustees shall be bonded adequately.

14 (c) Each board of library trustees may determine the time and place of its
15 meetings and may adopt rules for the conduct of its meetings. However:

16 (1) Each board shall meet at least once every 3 months;

17 (2) Any final action of a board shall be taken at a public meeting; and

18 (3) The minutes of board meetings shall be open to the public.

19 (d) (1) Any member of a board of library trustees who fails to attend at least
20 half of the scheduled meetings of the board during any calendar year shall be considered to
21 have resigned from the board.

22 (2) The [chairman] **CHAIR** of the board of library trustees shall report the
23 member's name and nonattendance to the county governing body by January 15 of the
24 following year.

25 (3) The county governing body may reject the resignation if the member
26 explains his nonattendance satisfactorily.

27 (4) The resignation is effective from the date of the final review by the
28 county governing body, which shall be within 10 days after it receives the report from the
29 [chairman] **CHAIR** of the board of library trustees. The county governing body shall fill any
30 resulting vacancy as provided in § 23–403 of this subtitle.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.