

# HOUSE BILL 659

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By: **Delegates Guzzone, Allen, Alston, Boyce, Crutchfield, Embry, Fair, Forbes, Guyton, Hill, D. Jones, Lewis, McCaskill, Moreno, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Phillips, Pruski, Spiegel, Taveras, Taylor, Terrasa, Watson, White Holland, Williams, Wolek, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                   **State Board of Education – Membership – Early Childhood Development**  
3                   **Professional**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the State Board of Education to include a  
5                   certain early childhood development professional as a member; and generally  
6                   relating to the membership of the State Board of Education.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8                   Article – Education  
9                   Section 2–202  
10                  Annotated Code of Maryland  
11                  (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12                  SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14                   **Article – Education**

15 2–202.

16                  (a) The State Board consists of 13 regular members, and 1 student member,  
17 appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

18                  (b) (1) In making appointments to the State Board, the Governor shall  
19 consider representation from:

20                   (i) All parts of this State; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) Areas of this State with concentrations of population or unique needs.

(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (4) through [(6)] (7) of this subsection, the members of the Board shall be appointed from the general public.

5 (3) The following individuals may not be appointed to the Board:

9 (ii) The Governor; and

10 (iii) The State Superintendent.

13 (ii) The Governor shall appoint the teacher member, with the advice  
14 and consent of the Senate, who received the highest number of votes after an election by  
15 teachers in the State.

22 (iv) 1. The election shall be conducted under regulations that the  
23 Department adopts.

27 (v) The teacher member may attend and participate in an executive  
28 session of the State Board.

(vi) The teacher member may not vote on any matter that relates to appeals to the State Board under § 6–202 of this article.

1 WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE, AS DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE  
2 ADVISORY COUNCIL, IN THE OPERATIONS OF A CHILD CARE BUSINESS AND EARLY  
3 CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM AND DEVELOPMENT.

4 (II) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
5 DEVELOPMENT MEMBER, WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, FROM A  
6 LIST OF THREE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR FROM THE  
7 OFFICE OF CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

8 (III) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE INITIAL  
9 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT MEMBER VACANCY AND ANY SUBSEQUENT  
10 VACANCY TO ALL LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE.

11 (IV) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT MEMBER MAY  
12 ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE STATE BOARD.

13 [(5)] (6) (i) Of the 13 regular members of the State Board, one regular  
14 member shall be the parent of a student enrolled in a public school in the State.

15 (ii) The Governor shall appoint the parent member, with the advice  
16 and consent of the Senate, from a list of three qualified individuals submitted to the  
17 Governor by the Maryland PTA.

18 (iii) The Department shall provide notice of the parent member  
19 vacancy on the State Board to the Maryland PTA.

20 (iv) The parent member may attend and participate in an executive  
21 session of the State Board.

22 [(6)] (7) The student member shall be selected by the Governor from a list  
23 of 2 persons nominated by the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

24 (c) (1) The student member shall be:

25 (i) A regularly enrolled student; and

26 (ii) In good standing in a public high school in the State.

27 (2) The student member may attend and participate in an executive  
28 session of the Board.

29 (3) The student member may not vote on any matter that relates to:

30 (i) The dismissal of or other disciplinary action involving personnel;  
31 or

(ii) Appeals to the State Board under § 2-205 of this subtitle or § 4-205 or § 6-202 of this article.

(2) The Governor shall appoint a new member to fill any vacancy on the Board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(3) A member is eligible for reappointment but may not serve for more than two full 4-year terms.

10 (4) The student member shall serve for a term of 1 year. A student member  
11 is eligible for reappointment but may not serve more than two full 1-year terms.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
13 1, 2026.