

SENATE BILL 999

F1

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr3713

By: **Senator Jennings**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2026

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Reappointments of County Superintendents of**
3 **Schools – Audit Requirement**
4 **(Local School System Fiscal Accountability Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a county board of education from reappointing a county
6 superintendent of schools unless either the Office of Legislative Audits or, under a
7 certain circumstance, an independent, third-party certified public accountant
8 completes a certain audit of the local school system to evaluate the effectiveness and
9 efficiency of the financial management practices of the local school system on or
10 before a certain date in the final year of the county superintendent's term and the
11 county board submits the audit to the State Superintendent of Schools and releases
12 the audit to the public in a certain manner; and generally relating to reappointments
13 of county superintendents of schools.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 4–201(a) and (d) and 4–201.1(a), (b), (d), and (f)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Education
21 Section 4–201(b) and (c) and 4–201.1(e)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 BY adding to
25 Article – Education
26 Section 4–201.2
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 2 Article – State Government
 3 Section 2–1220(e)
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Education**

9 4–201.

10 (a) (1) This section does not apply to Baltimore City.

11 (2) Subsections (b), (c), (d), and (f) of this section do not apply in Prince
 12 George’s County.

13 (b) (1) The term of a county superintendent is 4 years beginning on July 1.

14 (2) A county superintendent continues to serve until a successor is
 15 appointed and qualifies.

16 [(2)] (3) By February 1 of the year in which a term ends, the county
 17 superintendent shall notify the county board whether the superintendent is a candidate for
 18 reappointment.

19 [(3)] (4) In the year in which a term begins, the county board shall
 20 appoint a county superintendent between February 1 and June 30. [However, if]

21 (5) IF the county board decides to reappoint the incumbent
 22 superintendent, the county board shall take final action at a public meeting no later than
 23 March 1 of that year.

24 [(4)] (6) If a county board is unable to appoint a county superintendent
 25 by July 1 of a year in which a term begins, the provisions of subsection (d) of this section
 26 apply.

27 (c) (1) (I) An individual may not be appointed as county superintendent
 28 unless the individual:

29 [(i)] 1. Is eligible to be issued a certificate for the office by the
 30 State Superintendent;

31 [(ii)] 2. Has graduated from an accredited college or university;

1 and

2 [(iii)] 3. Has completed 2 years of graduate work at an accredited
3 college or university, including public school administration, supervision, and methods of
4 teaching.

5 (II) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT BE REAPPOINTED AS COUNTY
6 SUPERINTENDENT UNLESS THE COUNTY BOARD ENSURES THE COMPLETION OF AN
7 AUDIT OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND
8 EFFICIENCY OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL
9 SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-201.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10 (2) The appointment of a county superintendent is not valid unless
11 approved in writing by the State Superintendent.

12 (3) If the State Superintendent disapproves an appointment, the State
13 Superintendent shall give the reasons for disapproval in writing to the county board.

14 (d) If a vacancy occurs in the office of county superintendent, the county board
15 shall appoint an interim county superintendent who serves until July 1 after the interim
16 county superintendent's appointment.

17 4-201.1.

18 (a) This section applies only in Prince George's County.

19 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the County
20 Superintendent of the Prince George's County public school system shall be:

21 (1) Selected by the County Executive in accordance with subsection (c) of
22 this section; and

23 (2) Appointed by the county board after agreement on contract terms
24 negotiated by the chair of the county board.

25 (d) (1) The term of the County Superintendent is 4 years beginning on July 1.

26 (2) The County Superintendent continues to serve until a successor is
27 appointed and qualifies.

28 (3) By February 1 of the year in which a term ends, the County
29 Superintendent shall notify the County Executive and the county board if the County
30 Superintendent is a candidate for reappointment.

31 (4) (i) In the year a term begins, the County Executive shall select a
32 County Superintendent between February 1 and June 1, and the county board shall

1 complete the appointment on or before June 30.

2 (ii) If the County Executive decides to select the incumbent County
3 Superintendent, the county board shall complete the reappointment no later than March 1
4 of that year.

5 (5) If the county board is unable to appoint a County Superintendent by
6 July 1 of the year a term begins, the provisions of subsection (f) of this section apply.

7 (e) (1) (I) An individual may not be appointed as County Superintendent
8 unless the individual:

9 [(i)] 1. Is eligible to be issued a certificate for the office by the
10 State Superintendent;

11 [(ii)] 2. Has graduated from an accredited college or university;
12 and

13 [(iii)] 3. Has completed 2 years of graduate work at an accredited
14 college or university, including public school administration, supervision, and methods of
15 teaching.

16 (II) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT BE REAPPOINTED AS COUNTY
17 SUPERINTENDENT UNLESS THE COUNTY BOARD ENSURES THE COMPLETION OF AN
18 AUDIT OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND
19 EFFICIENCY OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL
20 SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-201.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (2) The appointment of the County Superintendent is not valid unless
22 approved in writing by the State Superintendent.

23 (3) If the State Superintendent disapproves an appointment, the State
24 Superintendent shall give the reasons for disapproval in writing to the county board and
25 the County Executive.

26 (f) If a vacancy occurs in the office of County Superintendent, the County
27 Executive shall select and the county board shall appoint an interim County
28 Superintendent to serve until July 1 after the appointment.

29 **4-201.2.**

30 (A) **THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO BALTIMORE CITY.**

31 (B) **AN INCUMBENT COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR**
32 **REAPPOINTMENT AND A COUNTY BOARD MAY NOT REAPPOINT AN INCUMBENT**
33 **COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT UNLESS:**

1 (3) The Office of Legislative Audits shall provide information regarding the
2 audit process to the local school system before the audit is conducted.

3 (4) (i) Subject to the limitation under subparagraph (ii) of this
4 paragraph, beginning in fiscal year 2017, a local school system shall be exempt from the
5 audit requirement under paragraph (1) of this subsection if the county governing body, the
6 county board of education, and the county delegation to the Maryland General Assembly
7 consisting of the county senators and delegates each submits a letter to the Joint Audit and
8 Evaluation Committee requesting an exemption on or before November 1 of fiscal year
9 2017, or on or before November 1 of the last year of a 6–year audit cycle under paragraph
10 (1) of this subsection, as determined by the Office of Legislative Audits.

11 (ii) A local school system may not be exempt for two consecutive
12 6–year audit cycles.

13 (5) (i) On or before November 1 of the third year of a 6–year audit cycle
14 under paragraph (1) of this subsection, each local school system shall submit a report to the
15 Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee on the status of implementation of corrective
16 actions to address repeat findings and recommendations identified by the Office of
17 Legislative Audits in the most recent audit conducted under paragraph (1) of this
18 subsection.

19 (ii) Each local school system shall publish the report required under
20 this paragraph on its website.

21 (iii) Before publishing the report in accordance with subparagraph
22 (ii) of this paragraph, any cybersecurity findings shall be redacted in a manner consistent
23 with auditing best practices.

24 (6) Notwithstanding paragraph (4) of this subsection, the Joint Audit and
25 Evaluation Committee may direct the Office of Legislative Audits to conduct an audit of a
26 local school system at any time.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
28 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
29 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to
30 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
31 enacted.