

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 502 (Delegate Holmes)
Economic Matters

Real Property - Governing Bodies of Common Ownership Communities -
Member Training

This bill generally requires each member of a board of directors or officer of a council of unit owners for a condominium and each member of the governing body of a homeowners association (HOA) to successfully complete a training curriculum on the responsibilities of being a member or an officer within specified timeframes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances. Although local common ownership commissions and counties with coursework established by the local commission are *authorized* developers of the training curriculum, local governments are not explicitly required to develop or administer any training under the bill.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The required training must have been developed by (1) a common ownership commission recognized by the State or a local government; (2) an organization approved to administer the training curriculum by a recognized common ownership commission; (3) an institution accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education; (4) a membership organization that offers nationally recognized certification

credentials for community managers; or (5) a county with coursework established by the county common ownership commission.

The training curriculum must include training on the following:

- the Maryland Homeowners Association Act, the Maryland Condominium Act, and the Maryland Cooperative Housing Corporation Act;
- roles and responsibilities of common ownership community governing bodies;
- fiduciary duty;
- responsible governance policies;
- legal structures and guidelines;
- reserves and audits;
- meeting procedures and requirements;
- handling of disputes;
- insurance and bonding;
- community maintenance;
- recordkeeping; and
- State and local resources for governing bodies.

Officers and members must successfully complete the training within 90 days after first being elected or appointed to the office. Individuals who are in office as of the bill's effective date of October 1, 2026, must successfully complete the training within 90 days after beginning a subsequent term.

The board of directors, officers of the council of unit owners, or governing body of an HOA, as appropriate, must (1) certify that each member or officer successfully completes the training requirements; (2) retain a copy of the certificate of completion for each member or officer; and (3) within 90 days after the certification of the member or officer, report to the common ownership commission. Certificates are valid for three years and require renewal upon expiration. Failure to comply with the training requirement authorizes the relevant body to remove the individual from office or invalidate a vote of the individual.

The bill's training requirements only apply:

- to a member of a board of directors or an officer of a council of unit owners for a condominium that is composed solely of residential for-sale housing or consumer realty who serves after a required meeting to elect a board of directors for the council of unit owners, as specified; and

- to a member of the governing body of an HOA that consists solely of residential for-sale housing who serves after a required meeting to elect the governing body, as specified.

Current Law: Statutory provisions do not address such training requirements for the governing entity of a condominium or an HOA.

For more information on common ownership communities, see the **Appendix – Common Ownership Communities**.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local governments are not required to develop programs under the bill. However, local governments that exercise their authority to do so likely incur expenditures. For example, Prince George’s County advises that administering a training program would necessitate the hiring of additional staff to (1) administer and monitor compliance and (2) coordinate offered programs. To accomplish these tasks, the county reports the need to hire at least two additional staff, with expenditures of at least \$200,000 annually. Conversely, Charles County advises that due to the bill’s permissive language, expenditures are not impacted.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 299 of 2025 and HB 793 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles and Prince George’s counties; Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division); Department of Legislative Services

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jg/jkb

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Appendix – Common Ownership Communities

When a person purchases a single-family home, condominium, or an interest in a cooperative housing corporation, the person may also be required to join an association of owners, which is intended to act in the common interests of all the homeowners, condominium unit owners, or cooperative owners in the community. Collectively, these associations are often referred to as common ownership communities (COCs). In Maryland, a growing number of newly constructed or newly converted residences are located in some form of a COC. Because registration of the various COCs is not required statewide, the exact number of COCs in Maryland is unknown. However, the Foundation for Community Association Research estimated that there were 7,200 community associations with an estimated 1.1 million residents in these associations in the State in 2024.

The affairs of a condominium are governed by a council of unit owners, which comprises all unit owners. Among other powers, the council of unit owners has the power to impose assessments on the unit owners to pay common expenses. A council of unit owners may delegate its powers to a board of directors, officers, or a managing agent. Condominiums are governed under Title 11 of the Real Property Article.

Many new housing developments are subject to a homeowner's association (HOA) that is created by a governing document and has the authority to impose mandatory fees on lots in the development in connection with the provision of services or for the benefit of the lots, the lot owners, or the common areas. HOAs are governed under Title 11B of the Real Property Article.

A cooperative housing corporation or "cooperative" is a corporation that owns real property. A resident of a cooperative does not own an individual unit; instead, the person owns an interest in the corporation, which leases the unit to the person for residential use. Cooperatives are governed by the laws in Title 5, Subtitle 6B of the Corporations and Associations Article.

Condominiums and HOAs may be authorized by their governing documents to impose liens on units or lots to collect unpaid assessments or fees. In a cooperative, the governing documents usually provide for the collection of delinquent fees, and evictions for outstanding fees are generally pursued by way of a landlord-tenant action.