

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 252

(Senator West)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Maryland Legal Services Corporation - Board of Directors - Membership

This bill increases the number of members on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) and makes related changes. Specifically, the bill increases (1) from 9 to 12, the number of voting members; (2) from 5 to 7, the number of voting members who must be lawyers admitted to the Bar in the State; (3) from 4 to 5, the voting members who must be nonlawyers; and (4) from 7 to 9, the number of voting members required to remove a voting member.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Altering the composition of the board does not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MLSC was initially established by the General Assembly in 1982 to raise funds and make grants to nonprofit organizations for the provision of civil legal assistance to low-income persons in Maryland.

MLSC is governed by a nine-person board of directors appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The board appoints the executive director, who serves *ex officio* on the board as a nonvoting member. The term of office for a voting member is

three years. A voting member may be removed for (1) malfeasance in office; (2) persistent neglect of or inability to discharge duties; or (3) offenses involving moral turpitude.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 330 (Delegate Kaufman) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2026
jg/jkb Third Reader - February 20, 2026

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