

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 705 (Caroline County Senators)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Caroline County Board of Education - Member Compensation - Increase

This bill increases the annual compensation for members of the Caroline County Board of Education by \$2,000. Under the bill, compensation for the board president increases to \$6,000 annually and compensation for other voting members increases to \$5,500 annually. In accordance with Article III of the Maryland Constitution, increases in compensation do not apply to board members currently serving in a term of office and will only take effect at the start of the term of an individual elected after the effective date of the bill. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Caroline County school expenditures increase by \$2,300 in FY 2027, rising to \$10,000 beginning in FY 2030, reflecting compensation increases taking effect at the start of each member's new term of office.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Caroline County Board of Education is a hybrid appointed and elected school board comprising of three elected members, two appointed members, and two nonvoting student members. Elected members must be residents of and elected only by the voters of the three board of education districts in the county. The two appointed members must be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, from the county at-large.

Local Expenditures: Generally, voting members of the Caroline County Board of Education serve a term of four years beginning on the first Monday in December. Of the three elected members of the board, two are elected in presidential election years and one is elected in gubernatorial election years. Of the two appointed members, one is appointed in presidential election years and one is appointed in gubernatorial election years. Therefore, the next term of office for which the bill's salary increases will apply begins December 2026, slightly less than halfway through fiscal 2027. By fiscal 2030, all five voting members of the board are subject to the increased salaries specified in the bill for the full fiscal year as shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Increased Expenditures for School Board Compensation

<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>	<u>FY 2029</u>	<u>FY 2030</u>
\$2,300	\$4,000	\$7,500	\$10,000

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1028 (Caroline County Delegation) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Caroline County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2026
js/hlb

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