

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 96
(Delegate Phillips)
Ways and Means

Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission - Membership - Alterations

This bill adds two members to the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission, one appointed by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3, Council 434 and one appointed by the Citizens Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education. The bill also (1) replaces the membership of a member appointed by the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce with a member appointed by the *Greater* Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce (the former's successor organization) and (2) specifies that the initial member appointed by the *Greater* Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce must serve the remainder of the term of the member appointed by the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce before terminating as specified. Lastly, the bill staggers member terms by specifying members whose terms must terminate at the end of September 30, 2028, and other members whose terms must terminate at the end of September 30, 2030.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Adding additional members to the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission does not materially affect Baltimore County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

The Baltimore County Board of Education

The Baltimore County Board of Education consists of 12 members, including 4 at-large members appointed by the Governor; 7 nonpartisan members each elected from 1 of 7 school board districts; and 1 student member. The Baltimore County Board of Education is 1 of 4 hybrid school boards in the State with both appointed and elected members. There are 20 elected school boards in the State. **Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local boards of education.

The Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission

The Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission consists of 19 members, which must reflect the diversity of Baltimore County. The Governor, in consultation with the Baltimore County Executive, must appoint 8 members, 1 from each legislative district in Baltimore County. The county executive must appoint 1 member from the county at large, and 10 specified organizations must each appoint 1 member. The county executive must designate a member as chair, and the Baltimore County Public School System must provide staff for the commission.

For each nomination for a vacancy on the county board, the commission must submit a list of names to the Governor. Absent an extraordinary circumstance, the Governor must appoint a member to the county board from the list provided by the commission. If the Governor elects not to appoint a member from a list submitted by the commission, the Governor must return the list and request that the commission submit a list of additional qualified candidates. Before the commission begins interviewing candidates for the appointment to the county board, the commission must publish the names of all candidates on the commission's website.

When the commission considers the selection of multiple nominees to recommend to the Governor as qualified candidates for appointment, the commission must hold at least three public hearings, each in a different councilmanic district. However, when only a single vacancy occurs on the county board, the commission must only hold at least one public meeting at either the councilmanic district in which the vacancy occurred when the vacancy occurs in a councilmanic seat or in the county board's administrative offices when the vacancy occurs in an at-large seat. Regardless of the number of candidates considered, the commission must make live video streams and a complete and unedited archived video recording of each public meeting available on its website.

Chapter 356 of 2024 requires that a commission meeting must be open to the public if it involves action on a candidate for appointment to the county board. However, a commission meeting that involves an interview of or a deliberation about a candidate for appointment to the county board must be held without the public in attendance and must be recorded. The commission must provide a copy of a meeting recording for public inspection within 48 hours after receiving a request for the recording.

The commission may retain and reactivate the application of a candidate for a vacancy on the county board for up to two years from the date the commission submitted the list of nominees to the Governor for the vacancy for which the applicant was initially considered. In order to reactivate an application, the commission must (1) notify and request consent from applicants within 14 days of the new vacancy and (2) receive consent from the applicant within 14 days of the applicant receiving notification.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 98 (Senator Sydnor) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2026
jg/hlb

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership

The composition of the local boards of education varies with members serving three- to four-year terms. Twenty counties have elected school boards and four counties have combined appointed and elected school boards. All 24 boards have either student members or student representatives who regularly present at board meetings; however, only 8 boards allow student members to vote, which generally excludes authority to vote on matters relating to collective bargaining and personnel. Three counties with voting student members also preclude student members from voting on matters relating to operating and capital budgets. **Exhibit 1** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local school boards.

Exhibit 1
Local Boards of Education
As of January 2026

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection ¹
Allegany	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Anne Arundel	8	4 years	E	7 from councilmanic districts 1 student (1-year term)
Baltimore City	12	3 or 4 years	A/E	2 elected from city at large 9 appointed by mayor 1 student (1-year term)
Baltimore	12	4 years	A/E	4 appointed by Governor from county at large 7 elected from councilmanic districts 1 student (1-year term)
Calvert	6	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Caroline	7	4 years	A/E	3 elected from school board districts 2 appointed by Governor from county at large 2 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Carroll	11	4 years	E	5 from county at large 5 commissioners <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Cecil	6	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection ¹
Charles	10	4 years	E	1 from county at large 8 from commissioner districts 1 student (1-year term)
Dorchester	8	4 years	E	5 from councilmanic districts 3 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Frederick	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Garrett	6	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Harford	11	4 years	A/E	6 elected from councilmanic districts 3 appointed by County Executive from county at large 1 superintendent <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (1-year term)
Howard	8	4 years	E	2 from county at large 5 from councilmanic districts 1 student (1-year term)
Kent	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Montgomery	8	4 years	E	2 from county at large 5 from school districts 1 student (1-year term)
Prince George's	10	4 years	E	9 from school board districts 1 student (1-year term)
Queen Anne's	7	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 2 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)
St. Mary's	6	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Somerset ²	8	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts 3 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)

School System	Number of Members	Term	Means of Selection ¹	
Talbot	9	4 years	E	7 from school board districts 2 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Washington ³	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Wicomico ⁴	11	4 years	E	5 from councilmanic districts 2 from county at large 4 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Worcester	10	4 years	E	7 from commissioner districts 3 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)

¹ E = Elected and A/E = Combined appointed and elected board: (1) in Baltimore County, members are appointed by the Governor from a list of names provided by the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission; (2) in Caroline County, members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; (3) in Baltimore City, members are appointed by the mayor from a list of names provided by the Baltimore City Public School Board Community Panel; and (4) in Harford County, members are appointed by the county executive with the advice and consent of the county council.

² Although not in statute, the Somerset County Board of Education reports that there are three nonvoting student representatives who give presentations at board meetings on current events of interest at each of the three regular high schools in the county.

³ Although not in statute, the Washington County Board of Education reports that there is a student member on the board and that the student member can only concur on votes and must abstain from certain matters.

⁴ Chapter 429 of 2025 codified at least one nonvoting student member on the Wicomico County Board of Education. The Wicomico County Board of Education includes four student representatives who give presentations at board meetings on current events of interest at each of the four high schools in the county. At each meeting, one of the four student representatives sits with the regular board members on the dais for the full meeting, while other student board members come forward to speak as needed.

Source: Sections 3-101 through 3-1405 of the Education Article; Local Boards of Education