Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 327 (Baltimore County Delegation)
Appropriations Education, Energy, and the Environment

Education - Board of Community College Trustees for Baltimore County - Membership

This bill reduces the Baltimore County Board of Community College Trustees by four members by eliminating five councilmanic district seats and adding one at-large seat. As a result, the bill aligns district-based trustee representation (reduced to one member per district under the bill) with the County Council's nine-district structure in effect for the 2026 election cycle. The bill also accommodates the smaller board by (1) specifying the trustees whose terms must expire or who must shift to a new district and (2) staggering the terms of newly appointed trustees. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects the Community College of Baltimore County.

Local Effect: Minimal decrease in reimbursement expenditures for Board of Community College trustee members beginning FY 2027 as a result of the smaller board. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Board of Community College Trustees for Baltimore County consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the members, 1 serves at large and 14 serve from the seven councilmanic districts in Baltimore County, 2 from each district.

State law generally establishes that community college boards have seven members serving staggered six-year terms, with several specified exceptions. Therefore, there are variations in the number and terms of board members. **Appendix 1** shows characteristics of the various boards. With one exception, the boards are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland Senate. For Chesapeake College, the board is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland House of Delegates.

Currently, the Baltimore County Council comprises seven members each elected from one of seven councilmanic districts. For the 2026 and 2030 councilmanic elections, the council adopted a new map that includes nine councilmanic districts.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 306 (Senator Hettleman, *et al.*) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 22, 2026
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Appendix 1
Selected Community College Board Member Requirements

Community College	Number of Members	Board Terms (Years)	Term Limits	Residency Requirements
Allegany	7	6	No Limit	None
Anne Arundel	10[1]	4	3[2]	Yes[3]
Baltimore City	9[1]	6	2[4]	Some[5]
Baltimore	15	5	2[4]	See Note[6]
Carroll	7	6	No Limit	None
Cecil	7	6	No Limit	None
Chesapeake	10	5	3	Yes[7]
Frederick	7	5	3	Yes[8]
Garrett	7	6	No Limit	None
Hagerstown	7	6	No Limit	Yes[9]
Harford	9	5	2[4]	Yes[10]
Howard	9	6	No Limit	Some[11]
Montgomery	10[1,12]	6	No Limit	Some[13]
Prince George's	9[1]	5	2[4]	Yes[14]
Southern Maryland	9	5	2[4]	Yes[15]
Wor-Wic	7	6	No Limit	None

[1]The board includes a student member serving a one-year term. The student body elects the student board member in Prince George's County.
[2]Consecutive full terms.
[3]All members must be a resident of Anne Arundel County.
[4]Consecutive terms.
[5]All members must be a resident of the State. The majority must be residents of Baltimore City.
[6]Of the members, 1 serves at large and the other 14 serve from the seven councilmanic districts in Baltimore County, 2 from each district.
[7]Two members from each county that supports Chesapeake College (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot).
[8]All seven members must be a resident of Frederick County.
[9]All members must be a resident of Washington County at the time of appointment and maintain residency in Washington County throughout their term of appointment.
[10]All members must be a resident of Harford County for the duration of their term.
[11]Of the nine members, at least eight must be residents of Howard County at the time of appointment and maintain residency in Howard County throughout the term of appointment.
[12]A local nominating committee must submit to the Governor the names of two to four candidates per vacancy, from which the Governor must appoint a new member.
[13]The student member must be a resident of the county.
[14]All members must be a resident of Prince George's County.
[15]Members must be a resident of the State. Each of the southern Maryland counties must be represented by at least three members who are residents of the county.

Source: Annotated Code of Maryland