

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1288  
Ways and Means

(Delegate A. Johnson)

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**County Boards of Education - Appointed Members in Leadership Positions -  
Prohibition**

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This bill prohibits an appointed member to a local board of education from serving in a leadership position on the board. An appointed board member serving in a leadership position on July 1, 2026, must vacate the leadership position by August 1, 2026. A leadership position is defined as a president, vice president, chair, or vice chair. An appointed member does not include a member serving on the local board who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an elected position on the board.

Failure to comply with the bill's provisions can result in a reduction in State funding to the local board. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is authorized to refer a local board's noncompliance to the Attorney General for enforcement. MSDE may also impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 on an appointed board member who knowingly and willfully continues to serve in a leadership position in violation of the bill's provisions. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Enforcement of the bill can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The local boards of education in four jurisdictions (Baltimore City and Baltimore, Caroline, and Harford counties) have hybrid boards with both appointed and elected members. The governance and operation of these local school systems may be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Twenty counties have elected school boards, and four jurisdictions have combined appointed and elected school boards. The **Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local boards of education.

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### Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1252 of 2025.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General; Comptroller's Office; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2026  
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## Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership

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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.

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### Exhibit 1 Local Boards of Education As of January 2026

School System	Number of Members	Term		Means of Selection <sup>1</sup>
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 <sup>1</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>	8	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts 3 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)

<b>School System</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Means of Selection<sup>1</sup></b>	
Talbot	9	4 years	E	7 from school board districts 2 students (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Washington <sup>3</sup>	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, 1-year term)
Wicomico <sup>4</sup>	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)

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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