

Letter in Support of HOUSE BILL 468

Dear Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of Ways and Means,

My name is Michael Darenberg I am not speaking for the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission (BCSBNC) or for Governor Hogan who appointed me to the commission. I am writing to express my support for HB468. Although I do not speak for the Commission, I am writing to share that I believe this bill will assist the Commission in shortening the amount of time it takes to select replacement nominees for the Baltimore County Board of Education.

When BOE Member-At-Large appointee Roger Hayden died in October 2019, the BCSBNC had the task of following the lengthy process of advertising and interviewing for his replacement. Time was of the essence in finding a replacement for Mr. Hayden because the School Board was in the process of selecting a new Chair and Vice Chair. The BCPS BOE By Laws state that 7 votes are needed for a number of items to be passed, including the vote for officers. Because that Member-At-Large chair sat empty it was impossible for anyone to receive the 7 votes needed.

Although finding replacement nominees sounds like it should be a quick task, it ended up taking 5 months due to the way the current law is written.

The new bill requires only one public meeting to share information with the public about the application process, which can be held at the BCPS headquarters, livestreamed and available for viewing online later. This will assist in streamlining the BCSBNC process.

The ability to go back to previously vetted candidates who were recently submitted to the Governor's appointment office and ask if they would be interested in being re-submitted should also help to not only streamline the process but also ensure great candidates are not lost to us.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Darenberg

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