



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 355
(PG 503-22)
Ways & Means
Committee

Prince George's County – Workgroup on the
Membership and Operation of the Prince George's
County Board of Education

POSITION:

SUPPORT W/ AMENDMENTS

HB 355 (PG 503-22) – Prince George's County – Workgroup on the Membership and Operation of the Prince George's County Board of Education – Establishing the Workgroup on the Membership and Operation of the Prince George's County Board of Education; requiring the Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding the Prince George's County Board of Education related to composition, qualifications, and compensation of Board members, methods of selection, an appropriate phase-in period for changes to Board composition, board composition reflecting the gender and racial diversity of the County, improved transparency, measurable outcomes, and a protocol for audits.

The County Council would like to first extend thanks to the Sponsor of this bill, the Prince George's County House and Senate Delegations, the County Executive and her staff, and all others who have participated in the creation of this consensus piece of legislation. We are grateful for the leadership of all of those involved for their engagement on this critical issue.

The County Council supports returning to a fully elected School Board as soon as possible, and we appreciate that this legislation has been amended to assure that return. The Council also supports language in this bill that allows the Board's election of its leadership and appreciates our Delegation's amendment in this regard. We would also suggest that the County Council be given confirmation authority as part of the selection process for the Superintendent. Additionally, the County Council believes that additional oversight of the School System's budget would be beneficial, and we support the provision of line-item authority in the current process of approving and/or modifying the School System's budget. These two items would provide the Council with the same roles and responsibilities it currently has with all other entities that spend County tax dollars. Finally, the County Council appreciates that the Sponsor has included language in this bill requiring the study of the important issue related to proper compensation for the level of professionals that we hope to attract to serve on our Board of Education.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS W/AMENDMENTS HB 355 (PG 503-22)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772