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BILL NO.: **House Bill 797**

TITLE: County Boards of Education – Student Membership -
Alterations

SPONSOR: Delegate Luedtke

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 3, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 797 – County Boards of Education – Student Membership – Alterations. This legislation would ensure all school boards have student representation and grant expanded voting rights to student members of local boards of education.

As a former student member of the Baltimore County Board of Education, County Executive Olszewski understands the critical insight student members provide to school leadership. Student members are directly impacted by decisions made by the board, and therefore have a hands on understanding of how policies enacted by the administration affect students. These students are selected by their peers because they have proven their ability to understand a wide range of student experiences and demonstrate leadership qualities.

House Bill 797 would mandate that student leadership is present in all local school boards in Maryland and allow students members to vote on a variety of issues, including budgetary alterations. Today’s students are more engaged and informed than ever before. Young people are leading the way in civil advocacy and business innovation. Student members have a proven track record of exhibiting prudence and responsibility in budgetary, contractual, and system-wide matters. These dedicated civil servants deserve to have their voices empowered on issues that will undeniably have a direct effect on their educational experience moving forward.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 797. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.