

- Requires one member from each of the following locations: Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore, Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties.

Currently, the board must consist of 7 individuals who collectively “reflect, to the extent practicable, the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State” and “have a high level of knowledge and expertise in various education policy areas.”¹ This bill seeks to alter membership of the board on the basis of nothing and will create multiple consequences, most notably the unnecessary politicization of the AIB and emphasis on geography over educational expertise. Existing law *does not* prohibit any members of the board from any county or region in Maryland to serve on the AIB.

Accessibility, opportunity, and equal representation are not at risk; however the integrity of the board and its mission to implement the Blueprint with fidelity are at risk when we reconstitute the board based on arbitrary geography, without giving consideration to population – specifically populations that have been historically underserved. We urge this committee not to allow the AIB to turn into a hub of partisan politics. Instead, faithfully uphold the principles of accountability and diverse representation within this entity.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 522.

*For more information, contact Maddie Long:
maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org*

¹ [2022 Fiscal and Policy Note](#)