

**BILL:** HB 656

**TITLE:** Talbot County- Board of Education- Election of Officers

**DATE:** February 22, 2023

**POSITION:** Support

**TO:** Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

**CONTACT:** Sharon Pepukayi, Ed.D., Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools

The Superintendent and Board of Education of Talbot County Public Schools, **support** House Bill 656.

This bill would allow our board members to nominate and elect board officer positions in December rather than January. Elections for the Talbot County Board of Education take place in November. During November and December each year, our district is preparing the next fiscal year's budget. It is during this time that the Board reviews the proposed budget prior to it being approved and submitted to the Talbot County Council. With officer elections not taking place until January, the Board may have a gap in leadership during a critical period in the budgeting process.

We strongly encourage this date change, as it will provide a smooth transition for new board members, allow board officers to be elected the month following board elections, and not leave us with a possible lapse of officers for the month of December.

For these reasons, we **support** HB 656 and urge a favorable report.

Sharon M. Pepukayi, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Emily L. Jackson  
President, Board of Education

Candace N. Henry  
Vice President, Board of Education

Deborah L. Bridges

Susan Delean-Botkin

Amy R. Dodson

Jymil S. Thompson

Mary E. Wheeler