

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal
Service Program Workgroup



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF SB451
Baltimore County Board of Education – Nonstudent Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarships - Alterations

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
February 28, 2024

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB451, Baltimore County Board of Education - Nonstudent Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarships - Alterations. The purpose of this bill is to increase the compensation for student and non-student members of the board, so it is more in line with the compensation provided to other counties' boards of education. SB451 would increase compensation as follows:

Member	Current	Increase
Non-Student Member	\$7,500	\$16,500
Chair of the Board	\$7,500	\$17,500
Student Member	\$7,500 (scholarship)	\$10,000 (scholarship)

Compensation increases do not apply to the compensation of board members serving in a term beginning before the effective date of the bill and only take effect upon the next term of office.

Baltimore County's school board members work tirelessly in collaboration with the county superintendent on the educational policies impacting our educations, administrators and our students. While Baltimore County is the third largest county in our state, their board members are paid significantly less than their counterparts in 9 surrounding counties, 7 of which are smaller in size. Last legislative session, as a body, we increased the roles and responsibilities of the Student Member of the Board (SMOB), by allowing them to vote on the budget, providing they received budget training. Further, in these unprecedented times in education post COVID, the rising concerns of school safety, and persistent challenges, there is

no question our school board members are working harder and longer, to address the ongoing needs of our schools. This dedication deserves sufficient compensation.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report on SB451.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the closing phrase "With kindest regards,".

Benjamin Brooks