
TO: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 598 – State Board of Education – Membership – Principal

DATE: February 23, 2024

POSITION: Support with Amendments

Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) would like to share a few proposed amendments to **SB 598**, which would add an additional member to the State Board who is required to be a certified, active school principal in Maryland, and who would be selected through an election conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The State Board appreciates the intent of this bill to ensure that the principal voice is well represented on the board. We concur that the experience, knowledge, and perspective of an active principal would be valuable. We are fortunate to have current members of the State Board who have served as principals in our public schools.

We have some concerns with continued growth of the size of the State Board, which is already one of the largest [state boards of education](#) in the United States at 14 members. Additionally, we want to ensure that the Governor retains the flexibility to appoint members of the State Board who have a wide array of experiences and skill sets.

The State Board does not oppose an active, certified principal serving as a member of the State Board and requests that the committee consider the following amendments that would allow for that flexibility without increasing the size of the State Board:

1. On page 1, line 16, page 2, line 8, and page 4, line 13, remove the increase in the number of regular members of the State Board from 13 members to 14 members.
2. On page 3, lines 2-3, strike “who received the highest number of votes after an election of principals in the State”, and strike lines 4-8 in their entirety.
3. On page 4, lines 13-18, strike the suggested uncodified language in its entirety and provide that the principal member of the State Board shall begin their term on July 1, 2025.

The State Board requests that the committee consider this information and suggested amendments to **SB 598**. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Education Policy, and Government Relations, at Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov or at 410-767-0504 or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or at 443-915-6094, if you would like any additional information.