

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0451.pdf

Uploaded by: John Olszewski

Position: FAV

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive



JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **SB 451**

TITLE: Baltimore County Board of Education – Nonstudent Member
Compensation and Student Member Scholarships – Alterations

SPONSOR: Senator Brooks

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 28, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 451 – Baltimore County Board of Education – Nonstudent Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarships - Alterations. This legislation increases the annual compensation for nonstudent members of the Baltimore County Board of Education from \$7,500 to \$16,500. Additionally, it raises the salary of the Chair to \$17,500 and increases the scholarship for the Student Member from \$6,500 to \$10,000.

The current compensation provided to Baltimore County Board of Education members insufficiently reflects the time and responsibility required of the roles. The Board meets twice per month for several hours at a time, engages in school visits, ribbon cuttings, press events, and other activities across the County. Furthermore, Baltimore County’s Board of Education currently lags behind other counties in offering compensation packages to Board Members.

Providing Board of Education members with a reasonable wage increase signifies the critical role of the individuals who commit their time and energy to the betterment of Baltimore County Public Schools. County Executive Olszewski, having served as the Student Member of the Board, understands the dedication required by Board members. The increase in the scholarship for the Student Member provides meaningful compensation as the cost of higher education has increased.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 451 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB451 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tiara Booker-Dwyer

Position: FAV

SB 451 Written Testimony in Support of the Bill

Greetings Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee. I am Tiara Booker-Dwyer, Chair of the Baltimore County Board of Education and I am here to express support for SB 451.

Members of the Baltimore County Board of Education are responsible for the governance of the 3rd largest school system in Maryland and the 22nd largest school system in the nation. Our duties require more than just attending a monthly board meeting. A significant amount of time is spent on responsibilities that inform our governance. Some of our duties are listed below.

- a. We visit schools to see what is happening in our schools and to hear directly from school leaders, teachers, students, and staff.
- b. We attend community meetings to hear firsthand from community members about what is working well and what can be improved in our school system.
- c. We engage in professional learning to stay current on governance practices and research that can inform our work.
- d. We review documents, presentations, and other information to prepare for board meetings.
- e. We attend public hearings to inform decisions regarding school boundaries, budgets, and closures.
- f. We render decisions on oral arguments and engage in many other duties to inform governance that improves educational outcomes for our students.

Being a member of the board of education, especially serving as the chair, is equivalent to having a part-time job. The current compensation structure may limit the representation of socio-economically diverse board members as it can be a financial

SB 451 Written Testimony in Support of the Bill

strain for those from low-income households to hold a board seat. SB 451 right sizes the compensation for board service. SB 451 supports increasing board diversity, brings compensation of board members to levels that are comparable to those of similar size school systems, and most importantly it recognizes the amount of time that board members devote to the governance of one of the largest school systems in Maryland.

Thank you Senators Brooks and Hettleman for bringing this very timely and needed bill forward and thank you Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee s for your service.

I am requesting that this Committee move SB 451 forward Favorably.

SB451_Brooks.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FWA

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal
Service Program Workgroup



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3606 · 301-858-3606
800-492-7122 Ext. 3606
Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Windsor Mill Office
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244
410-496-4037

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".

Benjamin Brooks