

# **Charles County Delegation Letter of Support - HB15**

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SENATOR ARTHUR ELLIS  
SENATE CHAIR

SENATOR MICHAEL A. JACKSON



DELEGATE DEBRA M. DAVIS  
HOUSE CHAIR

DELEGATE KEVIN M. HARRIS  
DELEGATE EDITH J. PATTERSON  
DELEGATE C. T. WILSON

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
CHARLES COUNTY DELEGATION

January 25, 2024

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

131 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of Ways and Mean Committee

HB151 - Charles County Board of Education – Vacancy Procedures – Timing and Video  
Streaming and Archiving

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members

The Charles County Delegation requests a favorable report on HB151 - Charles County Board of  
Education – Vacancy Procedures – Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving

If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at x3337.

With gratitude and service,

*Delegate Debra Davis*

Delegate Debra Davis  
District 28 - Charles County

**HB0151 SENATE HEARING Charles County Board of Edu**

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**EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.**

*Legislative District 28*  
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

*Subcommittees*

Local Revenues

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland  
House Delegation



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Testimony in Support**

**HB0151 Charles County Board of Education – Vacancy Procedures –**

**Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving**

**April 2, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, sponsor of HB0151 – Charles County Board of Education –Vacancy Procedures – Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving.

House Bill 0151 sets the time frame for filling a Charles County Board of Education vacancy and requires the Board to provide greater transparency by live streaming meetings consistent with the Open Meetings Act. This legislation has the support of Dr. Maria Navarro, the Superintendent of the Charles County Schools, the local Board of Education, and the Charles County Delegation. At Dr. Navarro's request, I have amended the initial legislation to extend the time from 60 days to 90 days to allow the Board additional time to fill a vacancy and allow the Board the flexibility to not fill a vacancy should a vacancy occur in an election year for the open seat.

This legislation also directs the Board to provide a link to a live stream through its publicly available website for each public meeting, instead of on its website. It also requires the Board to make a "complete" recording, versus an unedited recording, of each public meeting that is live streamed available to the public online. Currently, there is no time limitation on retention of an archived video. As amended, this legislation would require the Board to retain the complete video for 5-years consistent with the Maryland's Open Meetings Act.

In summary, this legislation simply sets the time frame for filling a board vacancy while allowing the Board of Education to determine how they will fill the seat. It also provides greater transparency for residents and access to meetings of public interest. House Bill 151 mirrors legislation passed by this committee last year on behalf of Baltimore County.

I respectfully urge you to vote favorably for HB0151 with the proposed amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Delegate Edith J. Patterson

# **HB151 - Tally Vote.pdf**

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SENATOR ARTHUR ELLIS  
SENATE CHAIR

SENATOR MICHAEL A. JACKSON



DELEGATE DEBRA M. DAVIS  
HOUSE CHAIR

DELEGATE EDITH J. PATTERSON  
DELEGATE ELIZABETH "SUSIE" PROCTOR  
DELEGATE C. T. WILSON

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
CHARLES COUNTY DELEGATION

Vote Tally - January 19th, 2024

Charles County Commissioners Legislative Package

HB151 - Charles County Board of Education – Vacancy Procedures – Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving

Approve      Disapprove      Signature

	Approve	Disapprove	Signature
Senator Jackson	✓		
Senator Ellis	✓		
Delegate Patterson	✓		
Delegate Wilson	✓		
Delegate Harris	✓		
Delegate Davis	✓		

# **HB151 Navarro testimony .pdf**

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**Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of the Superintendent**  
301-934-7223  
Fax: 301-932-6651

January 25, 2024

**Testimony in**  
**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**House Bill 151**  
***Charles County Board of Education - Vacancy Procedures - Timing and Video***  
***Streaming and Archiving***

On behalf of Charles County Public Schools, I urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 151, with amendments.

House Bill 151 would establish a time limit for filling vacancies on the Board of Education of Charles County and would require videos of interviews with potential Board candidates to be livestreamed and archived.

Charles County Public Schools agrees with both provisions, with amendments. Specifically, the bill would require the Board to fill the vacancy within 60 days. Unfortunately, based on the current statutory process already mandated, this would be a difficult deadline to meet. Current law requires the Board to advertise the vacancy, obtain applications from interested community members, review and vet the applicants to ensure they meet statutory eligibility standards, schedule and advertise public interviews of the candidates, and then determine which candidate best meets the community's needs. A 90-day schedule would more align with these requirements, and therefore **I urge this Committee to amend the bill to provide for 90 days rather than 60 days to fill the vacancy.**

In addition, because the process takes time and community input, **I urge this Committee to apply this process only in non-election years for the open seat.** Vacancies in election years may prove harder to fill since the remaining length of the term is so short and filling the vacancy immediately prior to the election may impact the public's voting for the open seat.

House Bill 151 would also require that complete and unedited videos of the interviews for the open seat be livestreamed and archived on the school system's website. Currently, the videos are edited, but only to remove breaks in the meetings. **This should be reflected in the statutory language by removing the word "unedited" from the bill.** In addition, since there is already a statutory mandate in the Maryland Open Meetings Act for such videos to be retained for five years, **a cross-filed reference to that provision should be added to House Bill 151 to reflect this minimum standard.**

I urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 151, with the amendments explained above. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  


Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools