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Ways and Means Committee

*Subcommittees*

Education

Revenues



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

**HB809: Members of Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, or  
Workgroups – Removal or Suspension**

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 1:00PM

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

HB809 is a bill requested by the Office of the Attorney General to standardize procedures for the suspension or removal of a member of a board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup created by State law. This would establish that a member may be removed or suspended for misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duties, or other good cause by the individual or entity that appointed the member.

Currently, there is not a standard policy across boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and workgroups for the removal of members. If the law that created the body does not explicitly address the question of removal or suspension of members, then there is little in practice that can be done in the event of member misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duties, or other good cause.

Under this bill, a member may be removed or suspended after (1) a consultation with the Chair of the board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup; and (2) the member has been given notice and an opportunity to be heard regarding the reason for their removal or suspension. This bill would not apply to the removal of a member from a standing committee.

A fair, standard process begets transparency and legitimacy. In the context of a decision as significant as the potential removal or suspension of a member, it is critical that such a standard is established.

**I urge the committee to give a favorable report on HB809.**