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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 887 – County Boards of Education –
Reappointment of Incumbent County Superintendent - Authorization**

February 21, 2025

Mister Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

The position of Superintendent of Schools is a complex and crucial one, as it is the superintendent who oversees the operation of the entire school district. A superintendent sets the tone for all schools and a good superintendent requires unique skill sets including budget management, curriculum development, policy oversight, hiring, professional development, community engagement, and more. Ultimately, they must ensure that their vision translates to students receiving the best possible educational experience.

Because of their unique skill sets, qualified and experienced candidates are often hard to come by. And because continuity and consistency are so important in a school district, when a school board and a community find a good superintendent, they don't want to see them recruited away.

Under current law, superintendents of schools are appointed for a four-year term. By February 1 of the year in which the term ends, the superintendent must notify the county board of their intention to be a candidate for reappointment. And between February 1 and June 30 of that year the county board must appoint a superintendent. (Note: this applies to all Maryland county boards except Baltimore City and Prince George's.)

Senate Bill 887 will allow county boards to reappoint an incumbent superintendent at any point during the incumbent's term to serve a new term of 4 years. The board must act on the reappointment no later than March 1 and the new four-year term will begin on July 1 of that year. (Note: again, this applies to all Maryland county boards except Baltimore City and Prince George's.)

In these volatile times, keeping good leaders in place in our communities is so important for the consistency that our educators, students and community need and deserve. This legislation will help our counties maintain excellent leadership in our schools and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 887.