

SB307 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Amanda Morataya

Position: FAV

**SB307 Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member
Scholarship - Increase**

Monday, February 3, 2025

SUPPORT

My name is Amanda Morataya, and I am an 11th grader at Chesapeake Science Point, in Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of HB0402 Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship - Increase. If passed, this bill would increase the Student Member of the Board of Education's scholarship from \$8,000 to \$15,000, in line with the other members on the board. Recently, every board member except for the student member saw a pay increase of \$7,000, which went into effect last December. The Anne Arundel County Student Member of the Board is one of the only "SMOB"s in the nation to have full voting rights and responsibilities. Therefore, the SMOB receiving less pay goes directly against the cherished principle of "equal work, equal pay." This was designed to encourage more people to run for an elected office on the board, and increasing the scholarship to \$15,000 could absolutely encourage students from lower income backgrounds to pursue the position instead of getting a job or finding an internship. However, this is simply an additional benefit to the scholarship increase, as HB0402 represents what Anne Arundel County has been doing for decades with Board of Education pay and compensation, where the student member receives pay equal to their fellow board members. Upholding precedent is important, as is recognizing the hard work of every one of our SMOBs.

Accordingly, I respectfully request a **favorable** committee report on HB0402.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Morataya, amandamorataya18@gmail.com

SB307 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Brenton Meade

Position: FAV

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenton Meade, I am a first-year Jefferson Scholar at the University of Virginia, a proud Anne Arundel County Public Schools graduate, and I served as president of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC), the body that elects the Anne Arundel County Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB), from 2022 to 2024. I write to express my strong **support** for SB307/HB402, a bill that would increase the compensation, in the form of a scholarship, provided to the student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. The county board unanimously voted to support this bill, and this committee should do the same. The student member performs the same responsibilities as the adult members in addition to their obligations as a student, and should therefore be entitled to the same amount of compensation.

During the 2022 legislative session, a bill was introduced to increase compensation for the adult members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education ([SB510](#)) but omitted the student member from said increase. As a member of the CRASC Executive Board at the time, I recall CRASC taking a “support with amendments” stance on the bill with the argument that the student member also deserved an increase in compensation. In mid-March, the bill appeared to stall in the General Assembly, so we opted to not advocate as vigorously as we originally planned. The bill drifted from our memory, and I found out late last year that the bill had passed after previously convincing myself that it had died. It is shameful that over the span of three years, 2 student members who served with their adult colleagues, attending the same conferences and closed sessions, continued to do their jobs while receiving lesser payment. But this committee has an opportunity to correct this injustice before the next student member leaves office.

I urge the committee to **favorably report** SB307.

Sincerely,

Brenton A. Meade

Gabriella Blair SMOB Scholarship increase-Tesimony

Uploaded by: Gabriella Blair

Position: FAV

HB0402 - Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship - Increase

Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

IN SUPPORT OF

My name, Gabriella Blair, I am a student of Meade Senior Highschool of Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of HB0402 - Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship Increase. If passed, this bill will increase the Student Member of the Board's Scholarship from \$8,000 to \$15,000. As of 2022, a bill was passed to raise Board of Education members annual salaries to \$15,000 instead of the previous \$8,000. The scholarship is currently not aligned with the rest of the members of the board. The scholarship is meant to help support the Student Member of the Board after serving their time on the board. With the rise of college tuition, a rise in the scholarship should be compensated.

The Student member of the Board works equally as hard as the other six members. They have a job they have to attend to just like the other member's. Therefore, the student members scholarship should also be included in the recent raise. An increase in the scholarship will not only support the student in applying to college but the scholarship can encourage other students to apply for the Student of the Board Member position. A scholarship may be what's stopping a student from applying for a position as such and including a scholarship is very beneficial to the position as a whole. With the scholarship being promoted, you get more of a guarantee that there's representation from lower income students to not only foster inclusivity but to allow a different perspective when it comes to being a Student Member on the Board. Currently the other members of the board make \$15,000 annually. The only salary that has not been renewed is the Student Member of the Board's scholarship. Considering there's nearly a \$7,000 difference in the salaries, this matter should be addressed.

“Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society.” - Sonia Sotomayor

Support SB0307 AACPS .pdf

Uploaded by: Grace Wilson

Position: FAV



**SB0307 – ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – STUDENT MEMBER
SCHOLARSHIP – INCREASE**

February 12, 2025

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SUPPORT

Grace Wilson, Senior Legislative & Policy Specialist (410.440.1758)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **SB0307 – Anne Arundel County Board of Education – Student Member Scholarship – Increase**. This bill increases the scholarship award for the student member of Board of Education of Anne Arundel County who completes a full term on the county board from \$8,000 to \$15,000.

AACPS supports increasing the scholarship award for the student member of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) to reflect their level of contribution on the Board. Our student member of the board is one of the few in the nation with full voting rights. The first full voting student member of the board served during the 1975-1976 school year. Since then, every SMOB has had the authority to cast a vote on any matter before the Board, just like their adult colleagues. The will of the citizens of Anne Arundel County to entrust full voting rights in the student member of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County should be respected and their level of contribution should be equitably compensated. AACPS supports this bill which would bring compensation levels for our SMOB in line with their adult counterparts on the Board in the form of a scholarship that is to be awarded upon completion of their full term on the Board.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB0307.

SB 307 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 307

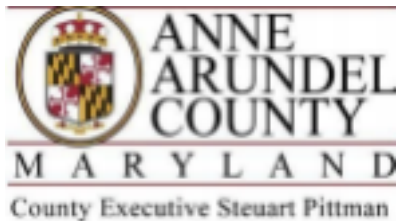
Chairman and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 307 – *Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship – Increase*.

SB 307 would increase the scholarship award for a student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education who completes a full term on the county board from \$8,000 to \$15,000.

Anne Arundel County _FAV_SB307.pdf

Uploaded by: Steuart Pittman

Position: FAV



February 12, 2025

Senate Bill 307
Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member
Scholarship - Increase

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 307 – Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Student Member Scholarship - Increase. This Bill would increase the scholarship award for the student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education who completes a full term on the county board from \$8,000 to \$15,000.

Anne Arundel County is one of the many counties in the state with an elected school board, but one of the few where the student member enjoys full voting rights and the ability to attend executive sessions, just as the non-student members do. Currently, board members are entitled to receive \$15,000 annually as compensation for the same work that is performed by the student member. This legislation brings parity to the compensation for the student member and recognizes the hard work and dedication that they put in over the course of their term representing all Anne Arundel County Students by providing them additional financial assistance in pursuing higher education.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 307.

SMOB Bill SB307 Testimony Meghal Spencer.pdf

Uploaded by: Meghal Spencer

Position: FWA

My name is Meghal Spencer, and I am a SEAT(Student Equity Advisory Team) Ambassador, and a member of CRASC(Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils). I am **writing in support of Bill SB307**, where the student member of the board (SMOB) is entitled to a \$15,000 scholarship, revising the current amount of \$8,000.

My reasons for Bill SB307 to be passed are as follows. First, the Anne Arundel County SMOB is the only student member of the board in the nation to have full voting rights. As of 2022, the National School Board has found that local districts can have student members in at least 31 states, yet Maryland is the only state with a voting SMOB. This makes the Anne Arundel County SMOB incredibly unique and an extremely progressive position. It is also competitive and difficult to obtain. Students going for the SMOB position need to have a lot of background in student leadership and government, and they compete with others through interviews and elections. I truly believe that the intense amount of work these incredible students complete to get this position entitles them to a higher amount of compensation, helping elevate them to their full potential with the scholarship.

An argument that could be made against Bill SB307 is that students do not need as much pay as adult board members, who currently receive \$15,000 annually for their services. However, the SMOB often is heavily benefited by the scholarship money. As college tuition prices are rising, scholarship money is often essential to the SMOB(who is a high school senior). Additionally, these students have to put in a large amount of work, the same as adult board members, during their junior and senior years of highschool, which are often busy with important exams, college applications, and extracurriculars. Also, the SMOB is limited to only using the money for academics, while adult board members are free to use it as they want without stipulations.

The members of CRASC and I stand together **in support of Bill SB307** to give the hardworking SMOBs the compensation they do for their impactful work in their unique positions. Thank you for your consideration, and we hope you stand with us.

Respectfully,
Meghal Spencer
9th Grade Historian, Severna Park High School SEAT Ambassador