



MARYLAND STATE TREASURER
Dereck E. Davis

Testimony of the Maryland State Treasurer's Office

Senate Bill 547: Commission to Study Health Insurance Pooling - Establishment

Position: Favorable

Health and Government Operations Committee

March 27, 2025

Senate Bill 547, as introduced, would have required the State Treasurer or a designee to serve on the two-year Commission to Study Health Insurance Pooling, chaired by the Secretary of Budget and Management. While the State Treasurer's Office (STO) supports exploring the concept of pooling public employee health insurance purchasing, the bill would have exacerbated a reality that STO has faced in recent years – constrained resources. In addition to fulfilling various Constitutional and statutory responsibilities related to banking, debt management, and insurance, the Treasurer serves on 21 State boards and commissions. This session, the General Assembly is considering legislation to add the Treasurer to a few additional entities.

As passed by the Senate, the amended bill does not require the State Treasurer to serve on the new Commission. For the reasons discussed below, STO respectfully requests that the Committee pass the bill in the same form.

Expanded Portfolio

[Chapter 113](#) of the Acts of 2023 abolished the Maryland 529 Board, transferring the Maryland 529 Program under STO. That transfer, coupled with the staff resources that STO is dedicating to integrating the agency and addressing the Program's issues, significantly added to STO's workload. While STO has resolved many of the initial operational challenges, the Treasurer remains the sole Trustee under the plans, requiring much more time than STO had previously dedicated to supporting the Treasurer as a member of the Maryland 529 Board.

Limited Staff Resources

Only a handful of STO employees have the experience and capacity to serve as designees for the Treasurer. Meeting obligations vary from bimonthly to periodically every few years (see “State Treasurer’s Board Responsibilities” chart on page 3 of this testimony). Aside from official meetings, several of the boards require STO to expend a substantial amount of staff resources in between meetings to coordinate briefings with other agencies and public officials, collect background information, and prepare for votes and discussion. The Treasurer’s two most time-consuming board responsibilities are the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, for which the Treasurer serves as Chair, and the Board of Public Works.

Removal of the Treasurer and his designee from the Commission will allow staff to dedicate working time to other responsibilities.

Nexus to STO’s Core Responsibilities

STO recently undertook a review of the Treasurer’s board commitments to identify those that reflected the weakest nexus to the Office’s core responsibilities. After much consideration, STO determined that the work of the Commission would not pose as strong of a connection to the Office’s other work.

2024 Legislation

During the 2024 session, the General Assembly passed departmental legislation ([Senate Bill 777/House Bill 918](#)) that alleviated some of the Treasurer’s membership responsibilities. As introduced, the bills would have removed the Treasurer from an additional board, the Board of Directors for the Maryland Environmental Service (MES Board). During the 2025 session, [Senate Bill 315/House Bill 344](#) proposes to remove the Treasurer from the MES Board to alleviate STO’s workload.

For the foregoing reasons, STO requests that the Committee give Senate Bill 547 a favorable report keeping the State Treasurer off of the new Commission. Please contact Laura Atas, Deputy Treasurer for Public Policy (latas@treasurer.state.md.us), with any questions.

State Treasurer's Board Responsibilities

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| Board of Public Works | Bi-monthly |
| Capital Debt Affordability Committee | October (3 meetings) |
| Commission on State Debt | April |
| Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems | Monthly |
| Board of Revenue Estimates | March, September, December |
| Maryland Environmental Services Board | Monthly |
| Maryland Supplemental Retirement Board | Monthly |
| Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Board | Quarterly |
| Maryland Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority | Monthly |
| Maryland Green Purchasing Committee | Quarterly |
| Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council | Quarterly |
| Financial Education and Capability Commission | Required to meet at least twice yearly |
| Procurement Improvement Council | Quarterly |
| IWIF Board | Quarterly |
| eMaryland Marketplace Advantage Steering Committee | As needed |
| Revenue Bond Advisory Board (DHCD) | Monthly |
| Revenue Monitoring Committee | Monthly |
| Hall of Records Commission | Semi-annually |
| Board of State Canvassers | Periodically during election years (After a presidential primary election, a State general election, or a general or special general election that includes a candidate for Congress) |
| Governor's Salary Commission | Periodically every four years |
| 21st Century Financial Systems Enterprise (21CFSE) | As needed |