

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

Ways and Means

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2025

FAVORABLE

My name is Brayden Morgan and I am a junior at Glen Burnie High School 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 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.

This Bill is intended to rematch the student member's scholarship with the pay of the adult members. Ever since the first student member on the board, Jeffery Robinson, in 1973, pay or scholarship has been matched with the rest of the board until 2022, when the rest of the board's pay was raised by \$7,000. The student member on the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Board of Education is the only local student member in the nation with full voting power. HB0402 ensures that the student member on the board with equal power, gets equal pay.

Additionally, with rising tuition costs, an increase in scholarship money could influence more students to run. Secondly, with almost half of Anne Arundel Public Schools qualifying for free or reduced lunches, this bill could encourage some students that otherwise would not, run for the student member on the board position. Regardless, the student member on the board is held to the same expectations of other members in many ways. This bill ensures Equal Vote, Equal Power, Equal Pay.

Given the student member's equal responsibilities, voting power, and commitment, it is only fair that their scholarship reflects that parity. HB0402 is a step toward ensuring equity and encouraging more diverse student representation.

For these reasons, I Brayden Morgan respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0402.

Respectfully submitted,

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With contribution from Abby Wingard