



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 5, 2025

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 1207, *Montgomery County – Board of Education – Compensation MC 7-25*
Support with Amendments

House Bill 1207 increases the annual compensation for the President of the Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) from \$29,000 to \$67,000 on December 1, 2025, and then to \$134,000 on December 1, 2026. The bill increases the annual compensation for other publicly elected Board Members from \$25,000 to \$62,000 on December 1, 2025, and then to \$124,000 on December 1, 2026. In accordance with the Maryland Constitution, the bill provides that it may not be construed to apply to the compensation of Board Members serving in a term of office beginning before the effective date of the bill (i.e., July 1, 2025). The new compensation would take effect at the beginning of the following term of office.

The bill also increases the current compensation for the Student Member of the Board (SMOB). Subject to a \$25,000 cap (i.e., the compensation received by a publicly elected Board Member), current law requires that the SMOB receive a scholarship for higher education expenses equal to the highest annual resident undergraduate tuition, fees, and room and board that is charged at a 4-year public higher education institution within the University System of Maryland. The SMOB serving for the 2024-2025 school year is subject to the cap and will receive a \$25,000 scholarship.

Under the bill, the SMOB serving for the 2025-2026 school year would receive a scholarship equal to 40% of the annual compensation of a publicly elected Board Member to be used for higher education costs and a one-time stipend equal to 10% of the annual compensation of a publicly elected Board Member. The SMOB serving for the 2026-2027 school year and each year thereafter would receive a scholarship equal to 80% of the annual compensation of a publicly elected Board Member to be used for higher education costs and a one-time stipend equal to 20% of the annual compensation of a publicly elected Board Member).

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary

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The bill was amended by the Montgomery County House Delegation to apply only to SMOB compensation. The amendments maintain the current SMOB compensation amount discussed above but give the student discretion to choose all or some of that amount as a monthly stipend. The amendments strike all other changes to current law.

I support the bill as amended by the Montgomery County House Delegation and respectfully request that the Ways and Means Committee issue a favorable report with those amendments.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee