



## **TESTIMONY FOR HB1252 County Boards of Education – Appointed Members in Leadership Positions - Prohibition**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate A. Johnson

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1252 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

MLC works towards good governance in Maryland. However, a conflict of interest and lack of accountability may arise when appointed members of a county board of education serve in leadership positions. HB1252 recognizes that appointed members, who are selected by government officials or bodies, may not always represent the interests of the community as effectively as elected members. By prohibiting appointed members from holding leadership positions, the bill seeks to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the governance of county boards of education.

Specifically, the bill prohibits appointed members of a county board of education from serving in leadership positions such as president, vice president, chair, or vice chair. It requires the State Department of Education to notify a county board if it allows an appointed member to serve in a leadership position and specifies penalties for non-compliance. These penalties include the suspension of funding for administrative functions and the posting of a notice of violation on the county board's website. The bill also mandates that appointed members serving in leadership positions as of July 1, 2025, must vacate their positions by August 1, 2025.

By ensuring that leadership positions on county boards of education are held by elected members, HB1252 promotes greater accountability and representation of community interests. It enhances transparency in the governance of county boards and reduces the potential for conflicts of interest. Additionally, the bill supports the integrity of the educational system by ensuring that those in leadership positions are directly accountable to the voters. This contributes to a more democratic and transparent educational governance structure in Maryland.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a FAVORABLE report in committee.