



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL

John T. Cannon, President/At-Large
Jeff Merritt, Vice-President/District #2
James Winn, At-Large
Shanie Shields, District #1
Shane T. Baker, District #3

Josh Hastings, District #4
Joe Holloway, District #5
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

March 10, 2025

Ways and Means Committee

Attn: The Honorable Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1524 – Wicomico County Board of Education – Election of Members, Student Member, and Compensation

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

The Wicomico County Council would like to express its support for House Bill No. 1524-*Wicomico County Board of Education – Election of Members, Student Member, and Compensation* as currently drafted with the proposed amendments regarding the student member.

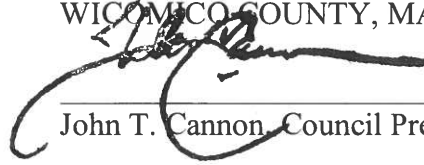
This legislation would restructure the Board members to align with pending changes to Wicomico County's councilmanic districts, providing more direct and equitable representation for all areas of the county. Additionally, the inclusion of a student member will bring a valuable perspective to board discussions, allowing student voices to be heard on matters that directly impact their education.

Fair compensation and reimbursement for board members acknowledge the time, effort, and responsibilities that come with serving on the Board of Education. These provisions help attract a diverse and dedicated group of individuals who are committed to shaping the future of education in Wicomico County.

We urge your favorable consideration of House Bill No. 1524.

Sincerely,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Cannon", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

John T. Cannon, Council President

cc: Wicomico County Council
Wicomico County Delegation
Wicomico County Executive
Bunky Luffman, Director of Administration

HOUSE BILL 1524

F3

5lr3624
CF SB 1032

By: **Wicomico County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County Board of Education – Election of Members, Student Member,**
3 **and Compensation**

4 FOR the purpose of altering, beginning with a certain election, the districts from which
5 certain members of the Wicomico County Board of Education are elected; adding a
6 student member to the county board; providing that the members of the county board
7 are entitled to certain compensation and reimbursement; and generally relating to
8 the Wicomico County Board of Education.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 3–13A–01, 3–13A–02, 3–13A–03(a)(2), 3–13A–04, 3–13A–06, and 4–107(e)(7)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 3–13A–03(a)(1)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Education
21 Section 3–13A–07 and 3–13A–08
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

24 BY repealing
25 Article – Education
26 Section 4–107(e)(6)
27 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

3–13A–01.

(a) (1) The Wicomico County Board consists of [seven]:

(I) SEVEN nonpartisan elected voting members; AND

(II) ONE STUDENT MEMBER.

(2) [The] BEGINNING WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 2026, THE
seven ELECTED members shall be elected [as follows:

(i) One member] from each of the [five] SEVEN councilmanic
districts in the county, elected by the voters of that district]; and

(ii) Two members at large, elected by the voters of the county].

(b) (1) A candidate who becomes an elected member of the county board must
be a resident and registered voter of Wicomico County.

(2) (i) An elected member who no longer resides in Wicomico County
may not continue as a member of the board.

(ii) A member elected from a councilmanic district who no longer
resides in that district may not continue as a member of the board.

(3) If the boundary line of a Wicomico County councilmanic district is
changed, the term of an incumbent ELECTED member of the county board who no longer
resides in that councilmanic district because of the change is not affected during this term.

3–13A–02.

(a) The seven ELECTED members of the Wicomico County Board shall be elected:

(1) At the general election in 2018 and at the general election every 4 years
thereafter; and

(2) In accordance with § 3–13A–01 of this subtitle and Title 8, Subtitle 8 of
the Election Law Article.

1 (b) (1) The terms of the **ELECTED** members are as provided in this subsection.

2 (2) Each term of office begins on the first Monday in December after the
3 election of a member and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

4 (3) The term of office of each member is 4 years.

5 3-13A-03.

6 (a) (1) There is a Wicomico County School Board Nominating Commission.

7 (2) The purpose of the Commission is to select nominees to recommend to
8 the Wicomico County Council as qualified candidates for appointment to fill a vacancy **OF**
9 **AN ELECTED MEMBER** on the Wicomico County Board.

10 3-13A-04.

11 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Wicomico County
12 Council shall appoint an individual to fill a vacancy **OF AN ELECTED MEMBER** on the
13 county board in accordance with § 3-13A-03 of this subtitle.

14 (b) (1) If a vacancy for **[a] AN ELECTED** member occurs before the date that is
15 30 days before the date for filing a certificate of candidacy for the primary election in the
16 presidential election year, the individual appointed under subsection (a) of this section shall
17 serve only until a successor is elected by the voters at the next general election.

18 (2) Candidates for the vacated office may be nominated at a primary
19 election in the same manner as for any other position on the county board.

20 3-13A-06.

21 At the first meeting of the county board in December of each year, the county board
22 shall elect a chair and vice chair from among the **ELECTED** members.

23 **3-13A-07.**

24 **(A) THE STUDENT MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL BE SELECTED IN**
25 **ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY BOARD.**

26 **(B) (1) THE STUDENT MEMBER SHALL:**

27 **(I) BE AN 11TH OR 12TH GRADE STUDENT IN GOOD STANDING**
28 **AND REGULARLY ENROLLED IN THE WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM;**

1 **(II) SERVE FOR 1 YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1 AFTER THE**
2 **SELECTION OF THE MEMBER;**

3 **(III) BE A NONVOTING MEMBER; AND**

4 **(IV) ADVISE THE COUNTY BOARD ON THE THOUGHTS AND**
5 **FEELINGS OF STUDENTS IN THE WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

6 **(2) UNLESS INVITED TO ATTEND BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A**
7 **MAJORITY OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD, THE STUDENT**
8 **MEMBER MAY NOT ATTEND A CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNTY BOARD.**

9 **3-13A-08.**

10 **(A) (1) THE CHAIR OF THE COUNTY BOARD IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE**
11 **ANNUALLY AS COMPENSATION THE GREATER OF:**

12 **(I) \$4,000; OR**

13 **(II) A SALARY SET BY THE WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL.**

14 **(2) THE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNTY BOARD AND THE OTHER**
15 **ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ANNUALLY**
16 **AS COMPENSATION THE GREATER OF:**

17 **(I) \$3,700; OR**

18 **(II) A SALARY SET BY THE WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL.**

19 **(B) AFTER SUBMITTING VOUCHERS UNDER THE RULES AND REGULATIONS**
20 **ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD, THE ELECTED MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO**
21 **RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES AS PROVIDED IN**
22 **THE COUNTY BOARD'S BUDGET.**

23 **(C) (1) ON THE SUBMISSION OF EXPENSE VOUCHERS, THE STUDENT**
24 **MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES**
25 **INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES FOR THE COUNTY BOARD.**

26 **(2) THE STUDENT MEMBER IS NOT ENTITLED TO ANY COMPENSATION**
27 **OR PAYMENT OTHER THAN THAT SPECIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
28 **SUBSECTION FOR THE STUDENT MEMBER'S WORK AS THE STUDENT MEMBER OF THE**
29 **COUNTY BOARD.**

1 4-107.

2 (e) [(6) Each member of the Wicomico County Board shall receive the following
3 amounts annually as compensation:

4 (i) Member \$3,700; and

5 (ii) Chairman..... \$4,000.]

6 [(7) (6) Each member of the Worcester County Board shall receive an
7 amount annually for traveling and other expenses as determined by the County
8 Commissioners, but in the amount of at least:

9 (i) Member \$2,000; and

10 (ii) Chairman..... \$2,400.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2025.



HB1524/373420/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

04 MAR 25
16:24:33

BY: Delegate Adams
(To be offered in the Ways and Means Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1524
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, strike “a” and substitute “at least one”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 8, strike “ONE” and substitute “AT LEAST ONE”.

On page 3, in line 24, strike “THE” and substitute “A”; and in line 26, strike “THE” and substitute “EACH”.

On page 4, in line 7, strike the third “THE” and substitute “A”; in line 23, strike the second “THE” and substitute “A”; after line 25, insert:

“(2) A STUDENT MEMBER MAY BE GRANTED A SCHOLARSHIP AS AUTHORIZED BY THE COUNTY BOARD.”;

in line 26, strike “(2)” and substitute “(3)”; in the same line, strike “THE” and substitute “A”; in line 27, strike “PARAGRAPH (1)” and substitute “PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2)”; and in line 28, strike the second “THE” and substitute “A”.