

Somerset County Public Schools

W. David Bromwell
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Tracie Bartemy
Chief Academic Officer



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Matthew Lankford, Chairman
Andrew Gleason, Vice Chairman
Mary Beth Bozman
William McInturff
John Robertson

March 11, 2026

David Bromwell, Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee. My name is David Bromwell, and as Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools and on behalf of the Somerset County Board of Education, I ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 508 – Somerset County Board of Education – Alterations.

This legislation makes four changes to the Somerset County Board of Education to update the statute regarding Open Meetings Act Compliance; Student Board Members; Vacancies on the Somerset County Board of Education; and Compensation to correspond with other local boards of education in Maryland.

It became clear to me after having been involved with 64 Official monthly Board of Education meetings and countless work sessions at my previous district in Dorchester County and now in Somerset County that clarification in statute is needed to prevent confusion about which actions the Somerset County Board of Education can and cannot take in executive session and to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Senate Bill 508 also creates the statutory authority to add two student board members, one from each public school in Somerset County; allows the Somerset County Commissioners to appoint a qualified individual to fill any vacancy on the Somerset County Board of Education until a successor is elected consistent with 14 other Maryland counties; and adjusts the compensation of the Somerset County Board of Education to be on par with other local boards.

Thank you for your consideration of this important local bill, and I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 508.