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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DELEGATION

**Testimony in Support of SB 409 - Anne Arundel County Board of Education -
Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarship - Increase**

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB 409 increases the compensation of the president, vice president, and other members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education and the scholarship award for the student member of the county board. This bill will not impact current Board members as they all term out at the end of 2028. This legislation will impact future Board members and is an effort to improve the overall health of The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County.

The president of the county board's salary will change from \$17,000 to \$25,000, the vice president's salary will change from \$16,000 to \$24,000, the other board members' salaries will change from \$15,000 to \$23,000 each. This Act does not apply to the salary or compensation of the president, vice president, members, or student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education while serving in a term of office beginning before the effective date of this Act which is October 1, 2026. The provisions of this Act concerning the salary or compensation of the president, vice president, members, and student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education shall take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office. This limitation does not apply to an individual appointed or elected after the effective date of this Act to fill out an unexpired term.

A student member who completes a full term on the county board shall be granted a scholarship of \$15,000 to be applied toward the student's higher education costs for a term that begins before July 1, 2029 or \$23,000 for a term that begins on or after July 1, 2029.

Background

Maryland Boards of Education are the only elected body that has executive, legislative, and quasi-judicial functions. They provide oversight and governance, supervise the Superintendent, make complex policy decisions, and approve the budget which currently stands at approximately \$1.9B for the operating budget and \$231M for the capital budget. A higher compensation formally recognizes the substantial time, expertise, and dedication required for these essential public service roles.

Solution

Offering better compensation makes the position more accessible and appealing to a wider range of individuals, including those who cannot afford to volunteer for what is a very time-consuming, year-round job, sometimes equivalent to a full-time job.

Increasing compensation can help remove financial barriers for people from lower-income backgrounds, parents of school-aged children, and members of historically marginalized groups. This can lead to a board that better reflects the racial and socioeconomic makeup of Anne Arundel County and the student body it serves.

Establishing better compensation can help standardize expectations for performance and time commitment, potentially attracting individuals with professional skill sets and relevant experience (e.g., in data analysis, governance, or finance).

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact on the State. Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by \$32,700 in FY 2029 and \$64,000 annually beginning in FY 2030. County revenues are not affected. There is no impact on Small Business.

All elected members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education are slated to stand for election in the 2028 presidential election. Therefore, the next term of office for which salary increases apply will begin December 4, 2028, slightly less than halfway through fiscal 2029. Therefore, all seven elected members (including the president and vice president) receive just over half a year of increased compensation in fiscal 2029 resulting in an approximately \$32,700 increase in expenditures in that year. Beginning in fiscal 2030, all seven elected members receive a full year of increased salaries representing \$56,000 in additional county expenditures.

The full \$8,000 expenditure increase for a student member scholarship is realized beginning in fiscal year 2030 with the completion of the term of the student member whose term begins on July 1, 2029.

Closing

SB 409 is limited in scope, fiscally disciplined, and consistent with the intent of existing law.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 409.

	Compensation			
	President	Vice Chair	Adult Members	Student Member
Allegany County	\$7,428	\$6,077	\$6,700	\$7,500
Anne Arundel County	\$17,000	\$16,000	\$15,000	\$8,000
Baltimore City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Baltimore County	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Calvert County	\$6,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0
Caroline County	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Carroll County	\$13,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$3,500
Cecil County	\$5,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Charles County	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$1,000
Dorchester County	\$3,600	\$3,200	\$3,200	IPAD
Frederick County	\$15,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Garrett County	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Harford County	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$0
Howard County	\$18,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$5,000
Kent County	\$2,400	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Montgomery County	\$29,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$5,000
Prince George's County	\$30,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$5,000

Queen Anne's County	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
St Mary's County	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
Somerset County	\$3,000	\$2,700	\$2,700	N/A
Talbot County	\$3,600	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$0
Washington County	\$14,000	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$0
Wicomico County	\$4,000	\$3,700	\$3,700	N/A
Worcester County	\$3,600	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$0
Scholarship				
Set by County Commissioners				
Base salary + \$250 per year served				
Entitled to health insurance				
Equal to highest annual resident undergraduate tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board that is charged at a 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland				