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Appropriations Committee

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Capital Budget

Education and Economic Development

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Testimony in Support of HB 1140
Baltimore County Board of Education – Membership – Alterations
Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes
Ways & Means Committee
Hearing March 12, 2026

What this bill does:

Beginning with the 2030 election, this bill would change the composition of the Baltimore County Board of Education to:

9 members elected from districts aligned with the County Council districts

2 members appointed by the Governor from nominees from the Baltimore County Public Schools

Nominating Commission

1 student member

History of this issue:

Prior to the passage of [SB 290](#) in the 2014 legislative session all members of the Baltimore County Board of Education were appointed by the Governor.

[SB 290](#) changed the make-up of the Board of Education to a hybrid model. Beginning in 2018, 7 members were elected from districts aligned with the councilmanic districts, 4 members were appointed by the Governor from nominees forwarded to from the [Baltimore County Public Schools Nominating Commission](#). The Nominating Commission is a volunteer commission comprised of citizens from each legislative district, and many community organizations including The League of Women Voters, NAACP – Baltimore County, PTA Council, and Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO).

What has changed?

In the 2024 election, voters approved the expansion of the Baltimore County Council from 7 to 9 members to better reflect the county's growth and diversity, reduce the number of constituents each council member serves, and create opportunities for more candidates to run for office. Beginning with the 2026 election Baltimore County voters will elect 9 county council members.

Why you should vote for this bill

This bill brings more elected members to the Baltimore County Board of Education, which brings more democracy. When people are elected to represent, they are held accountable by the communities they serve.

Increasing the number of elected Board members decreases the number of constituents each Board member serves, so they can be more effective in their representation.

Aligning the districts with councilmanic districts is cost efficient. [Misaligned districts require additional work by the Board of Elections and additional voting precincts](#). Not aligning the districts with councilmanic districts will require an additional redistricting process by the Maryland General Assembly with maps created by the Department of Legislative Services.

Having Board Members and Council Members share constituency allows easier, more collaborative relationships, as they share the same constituency. For Baltimore County voters it lessens confusion for down-ballot races.

This legislation preserves 2 appointed members who will be appointed by the Governor from nominees chosen by the nominating commission. These members serve to provide the ability to balance professional or diversity considerations on the Board.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask for a favorable report.