



HB0140 – COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS – VACANCY PROCEDURES - ALTERATIONS

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WAYS AND MEANS

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB0140 – County Boards of Education and Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Vacancy Procedures - Alterations**. This bill requires that a vacancy for an elected member of a county board of education be filled as following: (1) if the vacancy occurs 55 days or more before the candidate filing deadline for the primary election that is held in the second year of the vacating member’s term, the successor shall be elected at the next general election; or (2) if the vacancy occurs 54 days or less before the candidate filing deadline for the primary election that is held in the second year of the vacating member’s term, if no candidate files a certificate of candidacy for the elected members office, or if no individual otherwise qualifies to have the individual’s name placed on the ballot for an election, the remaining members of the county board shall select a qualified individual to fill the vacancy for the remainder of that term and until the successor is elected and qualifies. Members of the county board are required to advertise the vacancy, review resumes submitted from candidates for the vacancy, conduct livestreamed interviews of all candidates, and hold a vote to select a candidate to fill the vacancy. The appointment shall be the remainder of the term or until a successor is appointed and qualifies using the method that the county board uses to appoint members to the board. A member appointed in this fashion must be appointed within 60 days of the vacancy occurring.

AACPS opposes legislation such as HB0140 which circumscribes local governance of public education. Local governance of boards of education, including how board member vacancies are filled, is essential to a comprehensive system of public education. Currently, requirements for local boards of education, including filling a vacancy on the board, are established in State statute for each jurisdiction. Requirements differ between jurisdictions and reflect the unique governance structures of each jurisdiction with the State. Retaining local board authority in this instance allows for procedures to fill vacancies on a county board to be established by the local community rather than through top-down decisions from the State.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB0140.