

Somerset Education Association



March 12, 2026

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in regard to **House Bill 1428** on behalf of the Somerset Education Association. We are concerned with the potential change of appointment of members to the Board of Education if someone is unable to fulfill their term. This responsibility currently belongs to the Governor, and we do not believe that removing that authority to instead allow County Commissioners to make appointments is the best interest of our schools.

Salaries and compensation are difficult to agree upon, especially in small counties where money is tight. While we agree that Board members should earn more, as we understand how much time and effort these positions take, nearly doubling the compensation amounts may not be appropriate given our current local context.

We agree that our Board of Education must be able to meet in closed session with our Human Resources department, especially since this is an important feature of contract negotiations.

We are concerned about elements of this bill. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the sponsors to discuss revisions.

Sincerely,

Phaedra Spencer

SEA President

pspencer@mseanea.org

667-520-6125