

SENATE BILL 656

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5lr1588

By: **Senators Sydnor, Brooks, Hettleman, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore County Board of Education – Alterations of Elected Member Districts**
3 **and Establishment of Redistricting Process**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain members of the Baltimore County Board of Education
5 to be elected in a certain manner from certain districts in certain elections;
6 establishing the process for how certain school board districts are reapportioned after
7 each decennial census of the United States; and generally relating to elected member
8 districts for the Baltimore County Board of Education.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 3–2B–01
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Education
16 Section 3–2B–11
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Education**

22 3–2B–01.

23 (a) The Baltimore County Board of Education consists of:

24 (1) Seven nonpartisan elected members;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) Four appointed members; and

(3) One student member.

(b) (1) Of the 11 elected and appointed members of the county board:

(i) 1. **[One] BEFORE THE 2034 GENERAL ELECTION, ONE** member shall be elected from each of the seven councilmanic districts in the county, established by the County Council of Baltimore County **IN EXISTENCE ON OCTOBER 1, 2024**, by the voters of that district; and

2. **BEGINNING WITH THE 2034 GENERAL ELECTION, ONE MEMBER SHALL BE ELECTED FROM EACH OF THE SEVEN SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED BY THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS DESCRIBED IN § 3-2B-11 OF THIS SUBTITLE, BY THE VOTERS OF THAT DISTRICT; AND**

(ii) Four members shall be appointed by the Governor from the county at large.

(2) (i) The seven elected members shall be elected at a general election in gubernatorial election years in accordance with § 3-2B-02 of this subtitle.

(ii) The four appointed members shall be appointed by the Governor in presidential election years from a list of nominees submitted by the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission as provided in § 3-2B-03 of this subtitle:

1. On the expiration of the term of an incumbent appointed member within 30 days after the general election; or

2. Within the 30-day period otherwise required under this subtitle.

(3) (i) A member from a school board district shall be at least 21 years old, a resident of that district for at least 2 years, and a registered voter of the county before the election.

(ii) A member from a district who does not maintain residency in that district may not continue as a member of the county board and the office shall be deemed vacant.

(iii) If the boundary line of a district is changed, the term of an incumbent member of the county board who no longer resides in the district because of the change is not affected during this term.

(4) (i) A member may not be elected or appointed to serve on the county board for more than three consecutive terms.

(ii) A member who has served three consecutive 4-year terms may not be elected or appointed to the county board until at least 4 years have elapsed since the end of the member's last term on the county board.

(5) During an election year:

(i) The Governor may not appoint as a member of the county board an individual who files a certificate of candidacy for election to the county board; and

(ii) An individual who files a certificate of candidacy for election to the county board may not seek appointment to the county board by the Governor through nomination by the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission.

3-2B-11.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT" MEANS THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF BALTIMORE COUNTY FROM WHICH AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IS ELECTED.

(B) (1) BEGINNING AFTER THE 2030 U. S. CENSUS, THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS SHALL BE:

1. REAPPORTIONED AFTER EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND

2. EFFECTIVE FOR EACH GENERAL ELECTION WHERE A MEMBER WILL BE ELECTED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DECENNIAL CENSUS.

(2) THE REAPPORTIONED SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL IN POPULATION.

(C) (1) AFTER EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE BALTIMORE COUNTY DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON REAPPORTIONING THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS.

(2) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CENSUS.

(D) (1) THE BALTIMORE COUNTY DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL:

1 **(I) CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION**
2 **(C) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

3 **(II) INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO REAPPORTION THE SCHOOL**
4 **BOARD DISTRICTS IN THE SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DATE THAT THE**
5 **PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED.**

6 **(2) LEGISLATION INTRODUCED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY**
7 **DIFFER FROM THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS**
8 **SECTION.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2025.