

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 586

(Delegate Behler, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Energy, and the Environment

County Boards of Library Trustees - Membership - Student Member

This bill authorizes a county board of library trustees to provide for the selection of a student member. The bill also establishes the qualifications, term of office, and voting rights of the student member, if selected. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A student member must be selected by a process established by the board. The student member of a board must:

- be a junior or senior year student enrolled in a public or nonpublic high school or a home instruction program in the county that the library serves, who is of good character and, in the case of a student enrolled in a public or nonpublic high school, is in good standing in the student's high school;
- be selected in the student's sophomore or junior year by a method established by the board;
- have an interest in library matters; and
- serve a term of one year.

A student member selected to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term (1) serves only for the remainder of that term and (2) is eligible for selection for a full term if the student meets the eligibility requirements noted above.

Generally, a student member of a board may vote on all policy matters before the board. However, a board may adopt a policy or bylaw to authorize a student member to vote on additional nonpolicy matters.

Current Law: State law generally requires county boards of library trustees to consist of seven members appointed by the county governing body from nominees submitted by the boards of library trustees. (Generally, the county governing body does not directly select nominees.) Members serve without compensation.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 535 (Senator King) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland State Library Agency; Department of Legislative Services

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