

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 659
Ways and Means

(Delegate Guzzone, *et al.*)

State Board of Education - Membership - Early Childhood Development
Professional

This bill requires that one member of the State Board of Education (SBE) must be an early childhood development professional. The individual must have extensive experience in the operations of a child care business and early childhood curriculum and development, as determined by the Office of Child Care Advisory Council. The Governor must appoint the early childhood development member with the advice and consent of the Senate from a list of three qualified individuals submitted to the Governor from the Office of Child Care Advisory Council. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide notice of the initial early childhood development member vacancy and any subsequent vacancy to all licensed child care providers in the State. The early childhood development member may attend and participate in an executive session of the board. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: SBE consists of 13 regular members and 1 student member appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In making appointments to the State board, the Governor must consider representation from all parts of the State and areas of the State with concentrations of population or unique needs. Members of the board must be appointed from the general public. Except for the teacher and student members, any individual who is subject to the authority of the State board may not be appointed to the

State board. In addition, the Governor and the State Superintendent of Schools may not be appointed to the State board.

Each regular member serves for a staggered four-year term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. The Governor must appoint a new member to fill any vacancy on the State board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member is eligible for reappointment but may not serve for more than two full four-year terms. The student member serves for a term of one-year. A student member is eligible for reappointment but may not serve more than two full one-year terms.

Among the regular members, the Governor must appoint one teacher and one parent member with the advice and consent of the Senate. The teacher member who received the highest number of votes after an election by teachers in the State must be appointed by the Governor. For the parent member, the Governor must appoint the parent member from a list of three qualified individuals submitted by the Maryland Parent Teacher Association (PTA). MSDE must provide notice of a teacher member vacancy to (1) all certified teachers who are actively teaching in the State and (2) all teachers' organizations representing teachers in the State for purposes of collective bargaining. The elections must be conducted under regulations adopted by MSDE. MSDE may consult with the State Retirement Agency of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System to conduct the election. MSDE must provide notice of a parent member vacancy to the Maryland PTA.

A teacher or parent member may attend and participate in an executive session of the State board; however, a teacher member may not vote on any matter that relates to appeals to the State board related to the suspension or dismissal of teachers, principals, and other professional personnel.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 462 and HB 524 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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caw/hlb

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