

(a) This section applies only to the county boards of the following counties:

- (1) Anne Arundel;
- (2) Calvert;
- (3) Charles;
- (4) Harford; [and]
- (5) Montgomery; AND
- (6) BALTIMORE CITY

(b) For all proceedings before a county board under §§ 4-205(c) and 6-202 of this article, the county board may have the proceedings heard first by a hearing examiner. IN BALTIMORE CITY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS MAY HAVE PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 6-202 HEARD FIRST BY A HEARING EXAMINER EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY THE CITY CHARTER.

(c) (1) Except in Anne Arundel County, the hearing examiner shall be an attorney admitted to practice before the Maryland Court of Appeals. In Anne Arundel County, the hearing examiner may, but need not, be an attorney.

(2) The hearing examiner shall be chosen by the county board.

(3) In Calvert and Charles counties, the hearing examiner may not be the attorney to the county board or be connected in any way with that attorney.

(d) The hearing examiner shall submit to the county board and appellant:

(1) A transcript of the proceedings and exhibits; and

(2) His findings of fact, conclusions of law, and his recommendation.

(e) Parties to the proceedings before the hearing examiner may make arguments before the county board.

(f) (1) After it reviews the record and the recommendation of the hearing examiner, the county board shall make a decision.

(2) The decision may be appealed to the State Board as provided in this article.

(g) Each county board shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations to regulate the proceedings before the hearing examiner.