

Section 3-112.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1992 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, In a time of significant change, the education of the children of this State is one of the most lasting legacies a parent can bestow. The parents of Calvert County can be justly proud that the performance by Calvert County students on the Maryland Functional Tests were the very best in the State in 1993. Moreover, Calvert County students rank third among the 24 school districts on standardized tests for reading comprehension, language, and mathematics. Students in the County may participate in a career mentorship program, an environmental education initiative, the All-County Orchestra, a technical preparatory program, and other activities. The education system in the County has made significant benefits available for the students. Credit for this success belongs to many sources - interested parents, dedicated teachers, and a Board of Education committed to educational excellence. There is interest in the communities of Calvert County in the method by which members of the Board of Education are selected. Currently, the members are chosen by the traditional method - selection by the Governor. Suggestions for change are being made whereby election of members would occur, in much the same way as now occurs in neighboring Prince George's County. Consideration of the election of members raises a host of issues, such as whether the members should be elected on an at-large basis, by single-member districts, or by some combination of the two. Recognition should be given to the enhanced opportunities elected school boards give racial and other minorities. Further, should Board members be elected on a nonpartisan or partisan basis, should the elections be held in the off-Presidential election year, should the terms of the members be staggered to insure continuity, or should members be paid a salary for serving on any elected Board of Education? Each of these issues deserve inquiry and discussion before a reasonable decision can be made about the need for change. It would be tragic for the students in Calvert County to find that the method of selection of the Board of Education was being changed without a thorough investigation into the issues previously mentioned. To insure that that discussion takes place, a Commission to study the Board of Education of Calvert County should be created; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

3-112.2.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN CALVERT COUNTY.

(B) THERE IS A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL EXAMINE THE STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTY BOARD TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT BEST SERVES THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY. THE PRIMARY FOCUS SHALL BE TO EXPLORE THE PROCESS OF