

WHEREAS, A minimum level of funding is necessary to cover the costs of inflation and enrollment growth and to ensure adequate maintenance of the School's existing programs; and

WHEREAS, Education programs and other services to the School's students should not be reduced or disrupted during the school year as a result of mid-year appropriation reductions; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to expand the educational options in Maryland for students who have other severe disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of Education has the responsibility to monitor the programs provided by the School; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

8-314.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF ~~TRUSTEES~~ DIRECTORS OF THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

(3) "SUPERINTENDENT" MEANS THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

(B) THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, A BODY CORPORATE OF THE STATE THE CHARTER OF WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED ON MAY 19, 1853, SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE BOARD.

(C) (1) THE BOARD CONSISTS OF 25 MEMBERS.

(2) ~~(4)~~ OF THE 25 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

~~1.~~ (I) ~~5~~ SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, FIVE MEMBERS, INCLUDING ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND AND ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES, SHALL BE APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE SUPERINTENDENT, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD; AND

~~2.~~ (II) 20 MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD APPOINTED UNDER ITEM 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH ELECTED ACCORDING TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

~~(H) 1. THE 5 MEMBERS APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DEVELOP WRITTEN CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE OTHER 20 BOARD MEMBERS AND ENSURE THAT THE WRITTEN CRITERIA IS APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT.~~