

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 1142  
Ways and Means

(Howard County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Howard County – School Redistricting – Public Testimony  
Ho. Co. 07-21

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This bill requires that, if the redistricting plan proposed by the Howard County Board of Education differs from the plan proposed by the county superintendent, the board must allow public testimony from one or more members of a household whose school assignment is changed only in the board’s plan before the final vote is taken on either plan. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Howard County Board of Education can meet the requirements of the bill with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Howard County Board of Education is not currently required to allow public testimony from households affected by redistricting. In November 2019, the Howard County Board of Education approved a redistricting plan [School Planning – HCPSS](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan, which changes the attendance area for more than 5,400 students in the county, was the culmination of the largest redistricting effort in the county’s history. The approved redistricting plan is intended to reduce overcrowding and advance socioeconomic equity.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2021  
rh/rhh Third Reader - March 22, 2021

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