

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 14-0151R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Henry, President Young, Councilmembers Holton, Stokes,  
Mosby, Middleton, Branch, Clarke, Reisinger, Scott, Curran, Cole, Spector, Kraft

Introduced: March 10, 2014

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Council action: Amended from the Floor

Adopted: March 10, 2014

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Request for State Action – Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and  
the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System – Baltimore City  
Council Confirmation of Appointments**

FOR the purpose of respectfully requesting the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2014 Maryland General Assembly to sponsor and secure passage of legislation to require that nominations by the Governor and Mayor for persons to serve on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and for the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System be confirmed by the Baltimore City Council.

**Recitals**

In 1997, State legislation put into place a new City/State partnership in the governance of the Baltimore City Public School system in what State officials touted as a first step in addressing the fundamental problems within a system that consistently produced dismal academic performance, high absenteeism, and an appalling drop-out rate. The emergency departmental bill restructuring the management of Baltimore’s public schools was contingent upon the State providing additional education funding to Baltimore and the State’s 23 counties.

The management restructuring included replacing the existing board of school commissioners with a ten-member board appointed jointly by the Mayor and the Governor. The new board was given authority and responsibility for all functions relating to the public school system, including the establishment of a personnel system governing all employees and the adoption of regulations regarding school system procurement.

Under the provisions of the education partnership legislation, the 2002 General Assembly was required to deliberate and determine if the partnership should be terminated, modified, or extended. The result was the removal of “New” from the name of the Baltimore City of Board of Schools Commissioners, a requirement for the CEO to submit a new five-year master plan to the local board, by June 1, 2002, and a requirement for the local board to submit the plan to the State Board of Education by July 30, 2002, and to begin implementing the plan by August 30, 2002. The process for selecting the Board of School Commissioners remained unchanged, and the Board and CEO were still required to submit the schools’ budget to the Mayor and City Council for approval.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 Baltimore City has consistently maintained its fiscal commitment to Baltimore City Public  
2 Schools as exemplified in the City's current fiscal years budget. The City's Maintenance of  
3 Effort funding level increased by half a million dollars, to \$202.6 million. City operating support  
4 for BCPS totals \$279.9 million, including debt service on capital projects, retiree health benefits,  
5 and school crossing guards. The capital budget includes \$17 million for school construction and  
6 renovation.

7 As the school system goes through a critical period with leadership transition and the  
8 beginnings of the historic billion dollar school construction project, it is vital that the recent  
9 student gains be safeguarded and further improved upon. Accountability and community  
10 engagement will be key in determining the success of both the construction plans and the  
11 continued classroom reforms.

12 One of the best ways to hold schools and School Board members accountable is to share the  
13 responsibility for their appointment and tenure with those elected officials closest to the  
14 communities they serve – the members of the Baltimore City Council.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this Body  
16 hereby respectfully requests the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and  
17 House Delegations to the 2014 Maryland General Assembly to sponsor and secure passage of  
18 legislation to require that nominations by the Governor and Mayor for persons to serve on the  
19 Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and for the CEO of the Baltimore City Public  
20 School System be confirmed by the Baltimore City Council.

21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the  
22 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the  
23 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House  
24 Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.