

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

CSA1 Bill Id:AB 1390 Author:(Solache)

As Amended Ver:September 5, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Increases the maximum monthly compensation for the governing board members of school districts and county boards of education.

**Senate Amendments**

- 1) Authorizes, in a school district that is not located in a city and county, and in which the average daily attendance (ADA) for the prior school year exceeded 60,000, the governing board to prescribe, as compensation for the services of each regular member of the board who attends all meetings held, a maximum of \$4,500 in any month (from \$7,500 in earlier versions of the bill, and from \$1,500 in current law).
- 2) Authorizes, in a school district in which the ADA for the prior school year was 60,000 or less, but more than 25,000, each regular member of the city board of education or the governing board of the school district who attends all meetings held to receive as compensation for the regular member's services a maximum of \$3,000 in any month (from \$3,750 in earlier versions of the bill, and from \$750 in current law).
- 3) Authorizes, in a school district in which the ADA for the prior school year was 1,000 or less (from 1,000 or less but more than 150), each member of the city board of education or the governing board of the school district who attends all meetings held may receive as compensation for the regular member's services a sum not to exceed \$600 in any month.
- 4) Removes an authorization in a school district in which the ADA for the prior year was 150 or less, each regular member of the city board of education or the governing board of the school district who attends all meetings held to receive as compensation for the regular member's services a sum not to exceed \$300 per month.

**COMMENTS**

*Key provisions of the bill.* This bill significantly increases the maximum monthly compensation that may be provided to the governing board members of school districts and county boards of education who attend all meetings. This bill increases the maximum monthly compensation as follows:

*County school board members*

- 1) In any class one county (ADA of at least 750,000), from a maximum of \$600 per month to a maximum of \$3,000 per month.
- 2) In any class two county (ADA between 140,000 – 749,999), from a maximum of \$400 to a maximum of \$2,000 per month.
- 3) In any class three county (ADA between 60,000 – 139,999), from a maximum of \$300 to a maximum of \$1,500 per month.

- 4) In any class four county (ADA between 30,000 – 59,999), from a maximum of \$200 to a maximum of \$1,000 per month.
- 5) In any class five, class six, class seven, or class eight county (ADA of 29,999 or less), from a maximum of \$160 to a maximum of \$800 per month.

*School district board members*

- 5) In a school district that is not located in a city and county, and in which the ADA for the prior school year exceeded 60,000, from a maximum of \$1,500 to a maximum of \$4,500 in any month.
- 6) In a school district in which the ADA for the prior school year was between 25,000 - 60,000, from a maximum of \$750 to a maximum of \$3,000 in any month.
- 7) In a school district in which the ADA for the prior school year was between 10,000 - 25,000, from a maximum of \$400 to a maximum of \$2,000 in any month.
- 8) In a school district in which the ADA for the prior school year was between 1,000 - 10,000, from a maximum of \$240 to a maximum of \$1,200 in any month.
- 9) In a school district in which the ADA for the prior school year was 1,000 or less, from a maximum of \$120 to a maximum of \$600 in any month.

*Compensation for board members.* Current law authorizes the members of the governing board of a school district, and the governing board of a county board of education, to receive financial compensation for their service on the board. The amount of compensation is related to board member attendance and ADA. Current law authorizes, on an annual basis, a school district governing board and a county board of education to increase the compensation of individual board members beyond the limits, in an amount not to exceed 5% based on the present monthly rate of compensation. The compensation rates for school board members have not changed since 1984, pursuant to AB 3289 (Calderon), Chapter 1020, Statutes of 1984. Compensation for governing board members for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is set by the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco at \$500 per month. Proposals to increase the compensation of *members of county boards of education* in three counties (Alpine, San Benito, and San Bernardino) must be approved by the board of supervisors prior to taking effect. Some boards of supervisors set compensation for the members of the county boards of education below the maximum allowed. Most county boards of education are "fiscally independent" and therefore approve increases in compensation themselves, rather than being approved by the county board of supervisors. Compensation for members of charter school governing bodies is set pursuant to each charter, and is not affected by this bill.

Although there is variance between individual governing boards, most governing board members spend a significant amount of time each month attending meetings and other events related to the staff and personnel of the schools they oversee. Given this time commitment and low levels of compensation, many members of the public note they are unable to serve as a governing board member. According a 2024 EdSource article, *Lack of candidates means many Californians won't vote for school board*, analyzing the data from 1,510 school board races in 49 California counties, "851 races, or 56%, will not appear on a ballot because either no one is running for the seat or a single candidate is running unopposed – making that person an instant winner."

According to the author, the updated figures proposed by this bill were calculated to reflect approximately five times the current monthly rates – about halfway between the inflation adjusted amounts and what the amounts would be if a district had raised their compensation by the authorized 5% each year. For example, for a school district with an ADA in the range of 10,001-25,000 the maximum possible monthly compensation amounts:

- 1) Current compensation amount: \$400
- 2) Inflation adjusted amount (calculated using US Bureau of Labor Statistics at 5 year intervals): \$1,200
- 3) 5% annual increase amount: \$2,956
- 4) Proposed compensation amount in AB 1390: \$2,000

### **According to the Author**

According to the author, "Serving as a school board trustee is a demanding role that requires a great deal of time, research, training, public engagement, and commitment. While the responsibility of our school boards has grown exponentially in recent years, the levels of compensation limits have not been adjusted to reflect this or take into account inflation. AB 1390 will enable school district and county boards of education to set compensation levels to help retain experienced board members and encourage more community members to consider running for vacant positions on local boards. In some districts, the level of compensation makes it harder for individuals who are supporting themselves and their families to consider serving on a board. While helping to ensure students and their families are represented in key decision affecting their district and its schools, AB 1390 also preserves the public process that a board must currently follow to adjust its compensation levels."

### **Arguments in Support**

The California School Boards Association writes, "This measure would make long-overdue adjustments to the compensation thresholds in current law for school district and county boards of education. The current thresholds have not been changed in 40 years. Over that time, the work performed by a board has increased with more public engagement, training and greater responsibilities. AB 1390 would increase the thresholds to reflect these changes and to account for inflation during the last four decades. While current law enables boards to adjust compensation levels beyond the current thresholds, many boards have reported that they are still below the threshold (or do not receive any compensation at all). According to preliminary results from a survey CSBA is conducting of board presidents, more than 70% of school district governing boards are at or below the compensation cutoff for their ADA range.

With many governing boards foregoing the increases authorized in current law, the compensation levels in many districts make it difficult for those who are supporting themselves and their families to consider serving on their local board. AB 1390 will help update compensation thresholds for governing boards, while still ensuring a board's action to responsibly increase its compensation is fully transparent and adheres to the public meeting process.

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) By increasing the maximum monthly compensation amounts for school district and county board members, this bill could result in additional Proposition 98 costs for local educational agencies (LEA) to provide the compensation increases. While a precise amount is unknown and could vary by LEA, statewide costs could be in the millions of dollars each year. This could potentially create additional cost pressures for the state to backfill these costs.

**VOTES:****ASM EDUCATION: 7-0-2**

**YES:** Muratsuchi, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Hoover, Castillo

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-2-16**

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**NO:** DeMaio, Gallagher

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Bauer-Kahan, Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Ellis, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Kalra, Macedo, Nguyen, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia

**UPDATED**

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