

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: SB119 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE – LOCAL FUNDS – ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES

HEARING DATE: JANUARY 25, 2018

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSITION: SUPPORT

CONTACT PERSON: Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., *Legislative & Policy Counsel* (410.703.5352)

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **SB119 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE – LOCAL FUNDS – ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES**. This bill would authorize the counties and Baltimore City to use funding under the local component of Program Open Space to acquire and develop land for education purposes.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County strongly supports the development and funding of adequate State and federal programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects. Under current law, Program Open Space local funding is only provided to counties and Baltimore City to assist in acquisition and development of land for recreation and open space purposes, including the provision of public access to the land – education purposes is not eligible. SB119 would be extremely helpful as it would provide a new mechanism whereby a local school system can access State funds to acquire land for education purposes and, thus, allow school systems to utilize additional resources to address our core mission – student achievement.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB119.