

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: SB179 PROPERTY TAX CREDITS - REAL PROPERTY USED FOR ROBOTICS PROGRAMS

HEARING DATE: JANUARY 30, 2018

COMMITTEE: BUDGET AND TAXATION

POSITION: OPPOSE

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

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB179 PROPERTY TAX CREDITS - REAL PROPERTY USED FOR ROBOTICS PROGRAMS**. This bill would authorize a county government, municipality or Baltimore City to grant a property tax credit against taxes imposed upon real property that is used exclusively for the purpose of a public school robotics program or nonprofit robotics program.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes efforts to reduce State funding, shift funding responsibilities from the state to county governments, or condition funding on undue impositions on local board policy and budget discretion. We, therefore, oppose legislation such as SB179 that could materially lower the amount of fiscal resources available to support public education. In a fiscally conservative and tax revenue capped jurisdiction like Anne Arundel County, SB179 would generate further constraints on an already tight budget. It is important to note that Anne Arundel County government typically provides approximately 60% of the school district's total operating budget revenues. As such, the proposed tax credit would not only serve to lower tax receipts that support our operating budget, but also hinder the capital debt affordability ratios that support our school system's capital budget.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB179.