

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: SB236 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CURRICULUM - DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

HEARING DATE: JANUARY 31, 2018

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSITION: OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB236 State Board of Education - Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Curriculum - Development and Implementation**. This bill would require the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester-long high school elective course in financial literacy and entrepreneurship. It would also authorize each county board of education to implement the curriculum content beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

Maryland has already taken proactive steps to ensure that all of our students are financially literate by implementing Personal Financial Literacy Education Standards in grades 3-12 in every public school. The State has established a Financial Literacy Education Council to support local school system implementation activities, and has partnered with financial institutions and other organizations to provide ongoing professional development for teachers. In addition, public and private partnerships help fund financial literacy initiatives in local schools.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County strongly supports financial literacy and we have also taken steps to ensure that all students have a strong foundation in financial education to make informed decisions and accomplish their educational goals. In 2007, approved a one-semester Financial Literacy course for high school students as an elective. Additionally, Anne Arundel County Public Schools has integrated financial literacy standards into multiple content areas, including math, social studies, family and consumer science, and language arts. The current efforts by the State and local board of education is the preferred approach rather than a mandated course as a graduation requirement, which may not ensure that students are financially literate.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB236.