

Board of Education Legislative Exhibit
January 24, 2018

SECTION 1: BOE VOTE REQUESTED

HB0103

Education - County Boards of Education - Removal of County Superintendents

Sponsored by: Delegate Atterbeary

Authorizing certain county boards of education to remove a county superintendent of schools for immorality, misconduct in office, insubordination, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty; and requiring a county superintendent who has been removed to be compensated subject to the terms of a certain contract or, if no such terms exist, for the remainder of the county superintendent's term.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0103F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

OPPOSE

Under existing law, the State Superintendent of Schools may remove a county superintendent for:

- Immorality;
- Misconduct in office;
- Insubordination;
- Incompetency; or
- Willful neglect of duty.

This bill would also extend removal authority to county boards of education. Anne Arundel County Public Schools opposes efforts by the General Assembly to alter the current process for the removal of a school superintendent. HB103 is contrary to the current and longstanding practices of the State, and eliminates due process and checks and balances. The State Board of Education addressed this issue in *Metts v. Prince George's County Board of Education*, MSBE Opinion No. 02-05 (2002) where the Board stated, "[T]he legislature intended to design a hierarchical system in State elementary and secondary education that establishes the State Board and the State Superintendent as the final authority on educational policy and the administration of the public school systems of the State. While the local boards and local superintendents are charged with carrying out that policy, the manner in which they execute their responsibilities is subject to State oversight and review." Additionally, even when a superintendent's contract arguably allowed for the county board alone to terminate the agreement and remove the superintendent from office, the State Board of Education has found such a provision contrary to public policy and, therefore, voidable.

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SECTION 2: BOE VOTE NOT RECOMMENDED AT THIS TIME

HB0016

Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships

Sponsored by: Delegate Turner

Establishing a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship program; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission to publicize the availability of certain scholarships; requiring the Office to annually select and offer a certain scholarship award to certain eligible applicants; and requiring the Higher Education Commission to report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2020, and each December 1 thereafter on certain matters related to the program.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0016F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0030

Domestic Violence - Education and Definition of Abuse

Sponsored by: Delegate Angel

Requiring the State Board of Education to encourage county boards of education to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on domestic violence into a certain curriculum; altering the definition of 'abuse' for purposes of certain provisions of law relating to domestic violence to include harassment and malicious destruction of property; and defining harassment and malicious destruction of property.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0030F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0062

Procurement Contracts - Gender Wage Gap Reporting

Sponsored by: Delegate Angel

Providing for the application of the Act to certain procurements; requiring bidders or offerors to report the difference between the mean and median wages of male employees and female employees when submitting a bid or an offer on a procurement contract to a unit of State or local government; and requiring bidders or offerors to submit the number of employees used for the determination of gender wage gap calculations.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0062F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0074

Education - Career Exploration and Development Activities - Coffee (Java Act)

Sponsored by: Delegate Grammer

Repealing a termination provision relating to prohibiting an Executive Branch agency from banning or regulating the sale of coffee in conjunction with a career exploration and development activity in Baltimore County public high schools.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0074F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0076

Baltimore County Board of Education - Education Transparency Act

Sponsored by: Delegate Grammer

Requiring that certain actions of the Baltimore County Board of Education be taken at a public meeting; requiring that any action of the county board be recorded by a verbal roll call vote of certain members of the county board; requiring the county board to keep a formal record of public meetings; and requiring that any action of the county board be made publicly available on the county board's website within 12 hours of the time the action was taken.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0076F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0087

Baltimore County Board of Education - Nonstudent Members - Compensation

Sponsored by: Delegate Ebersole

Increasing from \$100 to \$7,500 the amount of compensation of the nonstudent members of the Baltimore County Board of Education; and providing that the Act does not apply to the compensation of the nonstudent members of the county board during a term of office beginning before the effective date of the Act.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0087F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0102/SB0198

Criminal Gang Offenses – Penalties, Procedure, and Elements

*Sponsored by: Speaker Busch on behalf of the Administration
President Miller on behalf of the Administration*

Providing that the juvenile court does not have jurisdiction over a child alleged to have committed a certain criminal gang offense under certain circumstances; altering penalties for certain criminal gang offenses; providing that certain sentences imposed shall be consecutive to other sentences; altering the elements of a criminal gang offense; requiring local jurisdictions to use divested assets for certain purposes under certain circumstances; and altering definitions.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0102F.pdf>
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0198F.pdf>

Effective Date: Emergency Bill

NO POSITION

HB0120

Property Tax Credit - Education Tax Relief for Elderly Individuals

Sponsored by: Delegate Knotts

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the portion of the county property tax that is used to fund the county board of education and is imposed on real property that is owned by and used as the principal residence of an individual who is at least 65 years old; authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county to provide for certain matters relating to the tax credit.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0120F.pdf>

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0150

Montgomery County Board of Education Compensation Commission MC 1-18

Sponsored by: Montgomery County Delegation

Establishing the Montgomery County Board of Education Compensation Commission to study the salaries of the members of the Montgomery County Board of Education; providing for the membership, appointment, removal, terms, chair, meeting requirements, and staffing of the Commission; and requiring the Commission to issue a report and make recommendations to the members of the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly regarding the compensation of the members of the Board by September 1, 2019, and every 4 years thereafter.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0150F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0154

State Board of Education - Membership - Teachers and Parent

Sponsored by: Delegate Ebersole

Altering the membership of the State Board of Education to add two regular members who are certified teachers and a parent of a student enrolled in a public school in the State; authorizing teacher members to be appointed to the State Board although the individuals are subject to the authority of the State Board; and requiring the Governor to appoint certain teacher members with the advice and consent of the Senate from a certain list submitted to the Governor by the State Department of Education after election by teachers in the State.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0154F.pdf>

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0156/SB0171

Talbot County Board of Education – Start Date of Term for Members

*Sponsored by: Delegate Mantz
Senator Eckardt*

Altering the date for the start of the term for a member elected to serve on the Talbot County Board of Education from January 1 to December 1 after the member's election.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0156F.pdf>

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0171F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0170/SB0188

**Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2017 - Public School Construction Program -
Baltimore City Heating and Ventilation Projects**

*Sponsored by: Delegate Lewis, R.
Senator Madaleno*

Amending the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2017 to expand a statement of intent of the General Assembly requiring that certain funds from the fiscal 2017 Statewide Contingency are to be used for heating and ventilation projects in Baltimore City Public Schools.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0170F.pdf>

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0188F.pdf>

Effective Date: Emergency Bill

NO POSITION

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HB0185

Prince George's County Board of Education – Students With a Disability in Prince George's County Public Schools – Report PG 506–18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education to gather certain information about students with a disability in each public school in Prince George's County; requiring the county board to study certain matters regarding students with a disability in Prince George's County public schools; and requiring the county board to report its findings to the Prince George's County Delegation to the General Assembly on or before January 20, 2019.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0185F.pdf>

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0186

Prince George's County Board of Education - Election of Vice Chair and Voting Procedures PG 507-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Repealing certain authority of the Prince George's County Executive to appoint a vice chair of the Prince George's County Board of Education; requiring the elected members of the county board to elect a vice chair of the county board from among the elected members of the county board; and altering the percentage of the voting members of the county board from two-thirds to three-fifths that is required to take action that is contrary to an action of the Chief Executive Officer of the Prince George's County public school system.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0186F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0195

Prince George's County - School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2018 PG 512-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Establishing the Prince George's County Public School Facility Construction Innovation Incentive Program to encourage the Prince George's County public school system to pursue innovative public school facility construction projects by certain means; specifying a certain percentage increase in the State share of eligible costs for certain projects that are approved to participate in the Incentive Program; and exempting alternative financing methods used in Prince George's County from certain requirements.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0195F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0196

Prince George's County Board of Education - Academic Revitalization and Management Effectiveness Initiative - Repeal PG 511-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Revising the composition of the Prince George's County Board of Education from an elected and appointed board to an elected board; decreasing the number of members on the county board from 14 to 10; altering the method by which a vacancy on the county board is filled; and repealing certain provisions relating to the position, powers, and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer of the Prince George's County public school system.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0196F.pdf>

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0207

Prince George's County Board of Education - Governance PG 509-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education to select the chair and vice chair of the county board; repealing the authority of the Prince George's County Executive to appoint the chair and vice chair of the county board; requiring the county board to select and appoint the Chief Executive Officer of the Prince George's County public school system; and repealing the authority of the County Executive to select the Chief Executive Officer.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0207F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0211

Prince George's County Board of Education - Teachers and Administrators - Child Protective Services Investigation Findings PG 510-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education to require certain public schools or units of the public school system to accept, for employment and work assignment purposes, a final finding made by Child Protective Services resulting from an investigation of a certain teacher or administrator for the alleged abuse or neglect of a public school student.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0211F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0214

Prince George's County - Equality in Education Act PG 505-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring a public charter school in Prince George's County that requires students to wear a school uniform to choose a uniform that may be purchased from more than one vendor or store; requiring certain public charter schools to establish a process to accommodate a family who may require financial assistance in obtaining a school uniform; and requiring each public charter school to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to make certain equipment and supplies available and affordable to students

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0214F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0215

Prince George's County – Elementary School – Limit on Class Size PG 501–18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education to limit to 30 or fewer the number of students assigned to a classroom teacher of students in kindergarten through grade 3 in the public schools in the county.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0215F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0216

Prince George's County Board of Education - Student Hearing and Vision Screenings - Reporting Requirements PG 504-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education to report to the Maryland Department of Health the number of students who did not receive the recommended services after failing a hearing or vision screening and the reason why; requiring the county board to develop a written strategy to increase the number of students receiving the recommended services after failing a hearing or vision screening; and requiring the county board to report annually on its progress in meeting certain goals to certain county officials and representatives.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0216F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0223

Howard County - Transfer Tax Exemption and Rate Reduction - Teachers Ho. Co. 13-18

Sponsored by: Delegate Turner

Exempting from the Howard County transfer tax the sale of residential real property to certain teachers if the teacher is a first-time home buyer in Howard County; establishing a maximum transfer tax rate of 0.7% in Howard County for the sale of residential real property to certain teachers under certain circumstances; providing for the recapture of the transfer tax exempted or reduced under the Act under certain circumstances.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0223F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0232

Prince George's County - Asset Transfer for Maglev - Hearing and Approval Requirements PG 402-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring the County Council of Prince George's County to hold a public hearing before the transfer of an asset of the county as part of the development of a magnetic levitation transportation system (Maglev) in the county; requiring notice of the public hearing to be delivered by first-class mail to all homeowners and businesses located within 500 feet of the asset at least 15 days before the public hearing; and requiring certain approval by the county and municipal entities of a transfer of a certain county assets.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0232F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

HB0235

Prince George's County - School Facilities Surcharge - Affordable Housing Requirement (The Affordable Housing Act of 2018) PG 414-18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Establishing that certain exemptions from and reductions of the school facilities surcharge on certain residential construction in Prince George's County do not apply unless at least 20% of the construction is designated as affordable housing for residents whose income does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income for Prince George's County established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0235F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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HB0241

Prince George's County – Telecommunications Transmission Facility on Public School Grounds – Public Hearing and Notification PG 513–18

Sponsored by: Prince George's County Delegation

Requiring a telecommunications company proposing to install a telecommunications transmission facility on public school grounds owned by the Prince George's County Board of Education to hold a certain public hearing before the school system's Chief Executive Officer executes a certain notice to proceed; and requiring the telecommunications company to provide, publish, and mail certain notice of the hearing.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0241F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

SB0167

Public Information Act - Suits Filed by Custodians - Prohibition

Sponsored by: Senator Feldman

Prohibiting a custodian that receives a request from a person wishing to inspect a public record from filing suit under the Public Information Act against the requesting person.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0167F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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SB0204

Higher Education - Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program

Sponsored by: Senator Simonaire

Establishing the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program to support students who are pursuing an education in programs that are directly relevant to cybersecurity; requiring the Office of Student Financial Assistance to administer the Program; specifying certain eligibility requirements for an applicant to the Program; authorizing a certain scholarship award to be used at any eligible institution to pay for certain education expenses; and requiring a scholarship recipient to maintain a certain grade point average.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0204F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

SB0103

Task Force to Study the Impact of Student Cell Phone Use in the Classroom

Sponsored by: Senator Benson

Establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Student Cell Phone Use in the Classroom; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2018; and terminating the Act after June 30, 2019.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0103F.pdf>

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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SB0131

Child Abuse and Neglect - Training

Sponsored by: Senator Zirkin

Requiring that each health practitioner, police officer, educator, and human service worker in the State receive periodic training on the obligation to report child abuse and neglect and on the identification of abused and neglected children.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0131F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

SB0132

Crimes - Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report

Sponsored by: Senator Zirkin

Establishing that certain persons who are required to provide certain notice or make certain reports of suspected child abuse or neglect may not knowingly fail to give the notice or make the report if the person has actual knowledge of the abuse or neglect or witnesses the act of the abuse or neglect; establishing the misdemeanor of knowing failure to report child abuse or neglect under certain circumstances; and providing certain penalties for a violation of the Act.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0132F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

NO POSITION

SB0160

Juvenile Law - Truancy - Affirmative Defense

Sponsored by: Senator Nathan-Pulliam

Altering the application of a certain affirmative defense to certain charges relating to truancy to be statewide.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0160F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

NO POSITION

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**SECTION 3: BOE VOTE NOT REQUIRED – ESTABLISHED POSITION
IN 2018 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

HB0010

State Lottery - Unclaimed Prizes - Public Prekindergarten Programs

Sponsored by: Delegate Walker

Requiring the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, at the end of each fiscal year, to remit money in the unclaimed prize fund to the Comptroller for distribution to each county board of education in the State on a pro rata basis determined by the total lottery sales made in each county; and requiring that a county board of education use distributions from the fund for public prekindergarten programs.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0010F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

SUPPORT

AACPS supports full per-pupil funding allocation for students attending public prekindergarten without any offsetting reduction in compensatory education funding. This legislation will help to expand and fully fund public prekindergarten programs in Maryland. Expanded access to public prekindergarten programs will help to close the student achievement gap.

Under current law, all children who are 4 years old on September 1 of that school year, who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals and whose parents/guardians seek to enroll the child in a public prekindergarten program, must be admitted free of charge to publicly funded prekindergarten programs established by each of the local boards of education. HB10 is a step in the right direction to help address the longstanding deficiency in funding provided to local school systems for prekindergarten.

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HB0045/SB144

Creation of a State Debt - Anne Arundel County - Broadneck High School Stadium

*Sponsored by: Delegate Carey
Senator Astle*

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$200,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Broadneck High School Stadium, located in Anne Arundel County; and providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0045F.pdf>
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0144F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

SUPPORT

The bond bill will facilitate needed improvements to the stadium at Broadneck High School. These improvements would aid the safety and effectiveness of the stadium for student athletes and event attendees.

HB0051/SB155

Creation of a State Debt – Anne Arundel County – Glen Burnie High School Field House and Athletic Complex

*Sponsored by: Delegate Beidle
Senator DeGrange*

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$1,000,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the athletic field house and concession stand at Glen Burnie High School, located in Anne Arundel County; and providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0051F.pdf>
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0155F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

SUPPORT

The bond bill will facilitate needed improvements to the athletic field house and athletic complex at Glen Burnie High School. These improvements would aid the safety and effectiveness of the athletic field house and athletic complex for student athletes and event attendees.

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HB0098/SB0135

Paid Leave Compromise Act of 2018

*Sponsored by: Speaker Busch on behalf of the Administration
President Miller on behalf of the Administration*

Requiring certain employers with at least a certain number of employees to provide employees with paid time off that is paid at the same wage rate as the employee normally earns and that may be used by the employee for any reason; authorizing an employer to apply to the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation for a certain waiver; requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to create and make available a poster and notice.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0098F.pdf>
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0135F.pdf>

Effective Date: Emergency Bill

OPPOSE

HB98/SB135 are unfunded mandates with significant fiscal implications. While these proposed bills differ from the Maryland Healthy Families Act, they would also negatively impact our school system as they also apply to temporary employees, including substitute teachers. Currently, substitute teachers receive an invitation to work at a school, and they have the ability to accept or reject the assignment based upon their needs and interests. The proposed legislation, Anne Arundel County Public Schools and local school systems in the State would be required to provide sick leave for these substitute teachers and other temporary employees at an increased cost to local school systems. The costs would be significant. Under this bill school systems would be required to cut resources from other places in order to afford leave for individuals in their system who currently do not receive leave and can choose to not work on certain days.

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HB0193/ SB0043

High School Diploma by Examination - Eligibility Requirements - Exemption

*Sponsored by: Chair, Economic Matters Committee on behalf of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Chair, Finance Committee on behalf of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation*

Exempting an individual from the requirement to withdraw from school in order to be eligible to obtain a high school diploma by examination if the individual participates in a GED Option Program administered by the State Department of Education that creates a pathway to a high school diploma by examination for certain currently enrolled high school English language learner students under the age of 21 years.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb0193F.pdf>
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0043F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

SUPPORT

The single goal of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County's strategic plan is to accelerate the academic learning and engagement of all students while eliminating all achievement, experience, and opportunity gaps. As such, we believe that specific emphasis should be placed on increasingly underrepresented student groups and their participation in challenging academic programs. The Board supports additional programs and resources, such as SB43, that help meet the varied needs of English language learners. AACPS is one of several school systems currently participating in a GED Option Program for English language learners, established by the Maryland State Department of Education, which meets the requirements of the bill, and will help students successfully complete the GED test and obtain a high school diploma.

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SB0031

State Retirement and Pension System - State Employees and Teachers - Benefits

Sponsored by: Senator Bates

Altering local employer contributions for members of the Teachers' Pension System; and establishing a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System and a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System Savings Plan for individuals who are members of the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System on or after July 1, 2019.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0031F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

OPPOSE

As envisioned through passage of the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act, the teacher retirement program should remain a State-funded categorical program and enhancements to the program should be considered. The fact that Maryland has a statewide pension system with portability is attractive to teachers at a time when our State schools of higher education are graduating far fewer teacher candidates than needed to fill statewide vacancies. The ability of any one district to attract and retain teachers, though, should not be disadvantaged by a district's need to set aside monies to pay for retirement costs.

SB0044

Vehicle Laws - School Buses - Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance Requirements

Sponsored by: Senator Young

Requiring the owner of a school bus to ensure that the school bus is inspected, repaired, and maintained in accordance with certain federal regulations; prohibiting the owner of a school bus from allowing the school bus to be operated unless it meets the requirements of the Act; and authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to suspend the registration of a school bus that does not meet the requirements of the Act.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0044F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

OPPOSE

SB44 is an unfunded mandate. Federal regulations explicitly exempt school buses unless they are, in fact, used as interstate commercial vehicles for hire. Local boards of education are responsible for funding transportation provided to students within their school systems and we maintain a strong commitment to student safety and believe that current school bus design and safety requirements already achieve a very high safety standard.

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SB0092

Maryland School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2018

Sponsored by: Senator Rosapepe

Establishing the Public School Facility Construction Innovation Incentive Program to provide incentives to encourage public school systems to pursue innovative public school facility construction projects; requiring the Interagency Committee on School Construction to implement the Program; specifying certain percentage increases in the State share of eligible costs for certain projects that are approved to participate in the Incentive Program; and exempting alternative financing methods from certain requirements.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0092F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

OPPOSE

We strongly support the development and funding of adequate and equitable State and federal programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects. The 21st Century School Facilities Commission (Commission) was established in 2016 to review existing educational specifications for school construction projects. It will also evaluate whether those specifications apply to the needs of 21st century schools. Further, the Commission is reviewing the findings of the 2004 Task Force to Study Public School Facilities, and how those findings have been implemented. While this legislation may be well-meaning, it could have unintended consequences that can result in a lower local share of capital construction costs. Additionally, a local board's ability to hold title to the land upon which a public school sits provides all of the rights, privileges and benefits of a land owner, without the undue influences, complexities or tensions associated with a landlord/tenant style arrangement.

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SB0161

Public and Nonpublic Schools - Student Sickle Cell Disease Management Programs

Sponsored by: Senator Nathan-Pulliam

Requiring the State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health to establish guidelines for school employees to utilize in the management of a student's sickle cell disease while the student is on the premises of a public or nonpublic school during certain hours and at school-sponsored activities, in collaboration with certain individuals; and requiring a county board of education, on or before July 1, 2019, to establish a policy for public schools within its jurisdiction to utilize the guidelines.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0161F.pdf>

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

OPPOSE

SB161 is an unfunded mandate. Case management of students with sickle cell disease is already a function of the school nurse and health assistant and, if appropriate, a 504 plan that requires the appropriate medical documents. AACPS would be required to call in substitute teachers in order to allow teachers to attend meetings, which is an additional major responsibility for a non-medical person. We would also be required to establish a separate Board of Education policy for each jurisdiction establishing a specific student sickle cell disease management program in each school. Additionally, AACPS would likely have to hire an additional staff member to implement the requirements of the bill which would result in additional costs incurred.

Board of Education Legislative Exhibit
January 24, 2018

SB0164

Education - Student Use of Backpacks - Assessment and Reduction of Health Effects

Sponsored by: Senator Nathan-Pulliam

Requiring that public school personnel, parents, and students receive educational information concerning the health effects of student use of overweight backpacks; authorizing a county board of education to allow Doctors of Chiropractic Medicine to conduct scoliosis examinations on students in the county schools; and requiring school personnel to engage parent-teacher associations and students to assess matters concerning students' use of backpacks and to promote certain strategies relating to students' backpack usage.

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/sb/sb0164F.pdf>

Effective Date: October 1, 2018

OPPOSE

SB164 is an unfunded mandate. Current AACPS policies and practices promote the use of an e-curriculum at all school levels. This has reduced the number of physical textbooks that students use throughout the school day and when performing homework tasks. All schools have built-in time in the school day schedule for students to access their lockers. Additionally, students are encouraged to only carry resources that they will need for certain periods of the day and then visit their lockers to gather other materials during the school day. Many schools have guidelines in place in which students are not allowed to carry backpacks throughout the school day. These guidelines have been put in place for safety reasons and to save physical space in the classroom. Another concern with the legislation is the requirement that schools allow Doctors of Chiropractic Medicine to conduct scoliosis examinations on students. Such examination would not be an appropriate use of school facilities.
