

# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

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**BILL:** HB940 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COLLEGE COURSES ACT OF 2018

**HEARING DATE:** MARCH 1, 2018

**COMMITTEE:** WAYS AND MEANS

**POSITION:** OPPOSE

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

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB940 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COLLEGE COURSES ACT OF 2018**. This bill would require a county board of education to award an elective credit to a high school student who successfully completes a college course or a course recognized for credit by an institution of postsecondary education in the State through an approved direct credit articulation agreement. A county board of education would be required to award graduation credit for a college course unless the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has determined that the course does not satisfy a graduation requirement. The bill would also establish procedures that an institution of postsecondary education and MSDE must follow to certify a course to meet a graduation requirement.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and determining graduation requirements, in collaboration with the State Board of Education. HB940 is problematic because it would take the local education agency (LEA) out of the decision making process regarding what college courses fulfill local graduation requirements and, instead, designate that authority to MSDE and institutions of higher education. Currently, LEAs already collaborate with institutions of higher education to design programs of study that meet the needs of their students in both high school and college. We strongly believe that curriculum decisions are best maintained under the jurisdiction of the LEAs as they best understand the needs of their students.

In addition to infringing upon local authority, HB940 is an unfunded mandate that would have a significant financial impact on LEAs as we would be required to create computer systems and hire individuals to track and validate student use of college courses for local public school credit.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB940.