

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: HB1136 COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - STUDENT HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

HEARING DATE: MARCH 2, 2018

COMMITTEE: WAYS AND MEANS

POSITION: OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB1136 COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - STUDENT HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**. This bill would require each local board of education or local health department to report to the Maryland Department of Health on 1) the number of students who did not receive recommended services after failing a hearing or vision screening and 2) the reason each of those students did not receive the recommended services. Each local board of education would be required to 1) develop a written strategy with quantifiable goals to increase the number of students receiving recommended services after failing a hearing or vision screening and 2) report annually to the General Assembly on the progress in meeting the goals.

The prescriptive requirements established under the proposed legislation create an unfunded mandate that would impose upon local board authority and decision-making. Current Maryland law mandates vision screening tests for students in public schools. Vision screenings are required in the year that a student enters a school system, enters the first grade, and enters the eighth or ninth grade. In addition, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is in the process of revising school health guidelines regarding vision screening of students. As such, no legislative action should be taken as MSDE has not had an opportunity to issue its revised guidelines.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1136.