

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: HB1545 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - NUTRITION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD

HEARING DATE: MARCH 2, 2018

COMMITTEE: WAYS AND MEANS

POSITION: OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB1545 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - NUTRITION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD**. This bill would require the State Board of Education to establish minimum nutrition standards for foods provided or sold in public schools, including specified standards related to flavored milk, grains, and salt. The nutrition standards established for meals offered by schools that participate in the federal school lunch or breakfast program would be required to meet or be more stringent than the applicable nutrition standards and guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Anne Arundel County Public Schools recognizes the importance of developing a healthy school environment, which promotes student health, well-being, and the ability to learn. Healthy school environments meet nutrition standards and guidelines for food and beverages available on the school campus in accordance with federal regulations promote food comprised of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and protein. Foods provide or sold in public schools must already meet a set of nutrient standards, including those related to fats, sodium, and calories in accordance with federal laws and guidelines. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) policies further administer the federal requirements. These State and federal requirements, in conjunction with locally developed and implemented policies, appropriately ensure that public schools meet the nutritional needs of students. Local boards of education, superintendents, and MSDE, work collaboratively to achieve these goals.

The Board opposes legislation or efforts to limit the authority of the local school board to set policy related to school nutrition and health. The Board also opposes legislative or regulatory mandates to require the tracking or reporting of single ingredient information or nutrients outside of what is already required by the USDA and MSDE.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1545.