



HB160 PROPERTY TAX CREDITS - REAL PROPERTY USED FOR ROBOTICS PROGRAMS

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB160 Property Tax Credits - Real Property Used for Robotics Programs**. This bill authorizes local governments to grant, by law, a property tax credit for real property that is used for the purposes of a public school robotics program or nonprofit robotics program in the State. Local governments are authorized to provide, by law, (1) for the amount and duration of the tax credit; (2) additional eligibility criteria for the tax credit; and (3) any other provision necessary to carry out the tax credit.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes efforts to reduce State funding, shift funding responsibilities from the state to county governments, or condition funding on undue impositions on local board policy and budget discretion. We, therefore, oppose legislation such as HB160 that could materially lower the amount of fiscal resources available to support public education. In a fiscally conservative and tax revenue capped jurisdiction like Anne Arundel County, HB160 would generate further constraints on an already tight budget. It is important to note that Anne Arundel County government typically provides approximately 60% of the school district's total operating budget revenues. As such, the proposed tax credit would not only serve to lower tax receipts that support our operating budget, but also hinder the capital debt affordability ratios that support our school system's capital budget.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB160.