



**HB330 EDUCATION - COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACTS**

March 27, 2019

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB330 Education - County Boards of Education - County Superintendent Contracts**. This bill requires a contract executed on or after June 1, 2020, between a local school board and the local superintendent of schools, or Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools, to provide that if the contract is terminated, the maximum cash settlement that the superintendent may receive may not exceed an amount equal to 1) the superintendent's monthly salary multiplied by the number of months remaining on the contract if the remaining term of the contract is less than 12 months or 2) 12 months' worth of the superintendent's salary if the remaining term of the contract is 12 months or more. The maximum cash settlement may include cash and health benefits; health benefits may be received for the duration of the cash settlement or until the superintendent finds other employment. These compensation provisions do not apply if the superintendent's employment contract is terminated for immorality, misconduct in office, insubordination, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports the authority of a local board of education to negotiate a contract with its superintendent. By retaining decision-making authority at the local level, local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and accountability. As such, we oppose efforts, such as HB330, which would inappropriately interfere with the contractual relationship between local superintendents and local boards of education. There is nothing in the current law that prohibits a local board of education from negotiating the type of contract that this bill seeks to mandate on all local boards. Accordingly, if a local board of education wishes to negotiate such a contract, that board may do so. Such a limitation on a local board's ability to negotiate a contract should not be imposed all local boards of education.

Due to the varying of responsibilities assigned by law to local boards of education and local superintendents, and the priority of maintaining a local board of education's decision in hiring a highly qualified local superintendent per the terms negotiated between the respective board and superintendent, AACPS opposes this bill.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB330.