

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

BILL: SB485 EDUCATION - REMOTE CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM - ESTABLISHMENT (PEYTON'S BILL)

HEARING DATE: MARCH 21, 2017

COMMITTEE: WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

POSITION: SUPPORT

CONTACT PERSON: JEANETTE ORTIZ, ESQ., *LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COUNSEL* (410.703.5352)

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 485 - Education - Remote Classroom Technology Grant Program - Establishment (Peyton's Bill)**. This bill would establish the Remote Classroom Technology Grant Program to provide grants to public schools to purchase technology to allow students with medical conditions to participate in classrooms remotely if in-person attendance is not possible. The Governor would be allowed include at least \$500,000 annually for the program. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would administer the program and may adopt regulations to implement the bill.

The grant established under these bills would allow homebound students greater opportunity to participate and interact with classmates and teachers. A telepresence through a robot with a microphone and camera would provide homebound students the opportunity for full engagement with classroom instruction. Additional funding would allow Anne Arundel County Public Schools to expand the options made available to these students so that students can continue their academic studies at an appropriate pace.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **Senate Bill 485**.