

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

BILL: SB360 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS - FUNDING (FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR STUDENTS FROM LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES ACT)

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 360**. This bill provides that the State shall be responsible for the student share of costs of: 1) breakfasts provided to all students eligible for a reduced-price breakfast under the federal School Breakfast Program; and 2) lunches provided to all students eligible for a reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program. A county board may not charge a student who is eligible for a reduced price breakfast or lunch for any portion of the cost of a meal.

Senate Bill 360 is good for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) and AACPS students who receive more than 845,622 reduced-price meals a school year. This bill ensures that students living in poverty have access to and can consume nutritious and appetizing meals. With **Senate Bill 360**, all reduced-price students would be able to participate in the School Meals Programs, promoting healthy school environments and ensuring that all students are fueled and ready to learn. By eliminating student payment, schools across the county will see an increase in participation from this eligibility group. **Senate Bill 360** also helps to address unpaid meal charges, which continue to increase at AACPS.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **Senate Bill 360**.