

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

BILL: SB667 EDUCATION - PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENT ASSESSMENT - MORATORIUM

HEARING DATE: MARCH 21, 2017

COMMITTEE: WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

POSITION: OPPOSE

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

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **OPPOSES Senate Bill 667 - Education - Prekindergarten Student Assessment - Moratorium**. This bill would place a moratorium on the assessment of prekindergarten students until a complete audit of the 2016-2017 pilot year of the early learning assessment is conducted and the audit results in a determination that the early learning assessment is valid and reliable and is consistent with specified purposes

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum. The program of studies in each school system is developed as a whole and aligned with the State and local standards and assessments. Accordingly, the authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education. Local boards of education and the State Board are responsible for researching, investigating, and evaluating both curriculum and assessments and are ultimately accountable for student performance. In Maryland, the General Assembly created the State Board and local boards of education and expressly delegated to these bodies the responsibility for developing curriculum and student assessments

Legislation such as **Senate Bill 667**, which seek to interject piecemeal segments into the curriculum or to extract portions of the testing, only serve to weaken the effectiveness of the entire educational program.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on **Senate Bill 667**.