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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0001/ SB0230</p> <p>HB0065</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Clippinger and Senator Middleton Delegate Jackson</p> <p>Requiring employers that employ 15 or more employees to provide employees with earned sick and safe leave that is paid at the same wage rate as the employee normally earns; requiring employers with 14 or fewer employees to provide an employee with unpaid earned sick and safe leave; providing for the manner in which earned sick and safe leave is accrued; and authorizing an employee to work additional hours or trade shifts with another employee under specified circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: January 1, 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill is an unfunded mandate with significant fiscal implications. This bill would apply to temporary employees including substitute teachers. Currently, substitute teachers receive an invitation to work at a school, and they have the ability to accept or reject the assignment based upon their needs and interests. Under this bill, Anne Arundel County Public Schools and local school systems in the State would be required to provide sick leave for these substitute teachers at an increased cost to local school systems. The costs associated with this bill would require school systems to cut resources from other places in order to afford leave for individuals in their system who currently do not receive leave and can choose to not work on certain days.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HB1 Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0018</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Task Force to Improve Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Scores for Maryland Public School Students</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Conaway</p> <p>Establishing the Task Force to Improve Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Scores for Maryland Public School Students; requiring the Task Force to identify the best practices of local school systems, assess needs, design plans, and make recommendations; and requiring the Task Force to submit a final report of its findings to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2017.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: May 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The requirements set forth under the bill are already being addressed via other means. Specifically, the accountability measures identified in House Bill 18 are</p>

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	<p>currently required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under ESSA, once local education agencies (LEA) identify students through that process, both the LEAs and the Maryland State Department of Education would be required to implement their plans. This was also a component of the previous version of the law – No Child Left Behind – in which MSDE holds LEAs accountable and provides resources and support. LEAs, in turn, also want to do better in order to get “off the list.” As a result, a task force is not needed to do this work. Additionally, most of the members defined in the bill would not be able to complete many of the proposed requirements enumerated in the House Bill 18. For example, many task force members could not assess how PARCC affects Individualized Education Program and English language learner students, determine curriculum resources, identify needs, review professional development support, technology needs, school schedules, evaluate structures, among others. Most of the individuals who would be assigned to the task force have very little or no background in any of the above-referenced topics.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0023/ SB0341</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Vehicle Laws - School Vehicles - Definition</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Lam</p> <p>Altering the definition of 'school vehicle' to include specified vehicles that meet or comply with specified standards and requirements, were originally titled and used to transport children, students, and teachers in another state, comply with the regulations on transporting children enrolled in the federally funded Head Start Program, and are used only for transporting children to and from a Head Start program.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Current state law and the Code of Maryland Regulations require school systems transporting students to use buses that have been constructed to Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) specifications and additional specifications as set out by the local school system; such buses all have a Maryland identification plate affixed to the bus to evidence that they met those specifications. Buses built to Maryland specifications for purchase use by Maryland companies readily meet these specifications. However, to open up the marketplace to buses from out of state, which would have to be retrofitted to meet Maryland specifications, would be costly and raise safety concerns. Maryland school vehicles must submit to four school bus inspections each year to ensure that all vehicles are maintained at the highest level. Many other states do not maintain such strict inspection standards. Absent a guarantee of such an inspection history, a purchase of a bus from another state is fraught with safety risks.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0040</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Retirement and Pension System - Funding Ratio Report - Market Value of Assets</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate McConkey</p> <p>Requiring the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System to submit a report on or before December 1 each year to the Joint Committee on Pensions and the General Assembly on the funding ratio of the State Retirement and Pension System based on the market value of the assets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>It is in the best interest of AACPS employees and members of the State pension system, that the General Assembly receive an annual report of the funding ratio of the several systems based on the market value of the assets. Such a report can empower the Joint Committee on Pensions and the General Assembly to take steps to maintain or improve the funding ratio. In the 2014 funding ratio, as reported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, Maryland placed 31 out of 50 states with a funding ratio of 71.3%.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0056</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Schools - Wellness Policy - School Meals</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Conaway</p> <p>Requiring county boards of education to add to a federally mandated wellness policy on or before August 1, 2018, a specified plan for reducing students' added sugar intake per school meal based on recommendations from the federal Food and Drug Administration.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This legislation would circumscribe the authority of the local school board to set policy related to school nutrition and health. Each local education agency (LEA) is unique in what it monitors and implements through its wellness and school health advisory councils. As such, each school system should be able to determine the items to monitor and implement wellness plans based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) School Health Model. As a result, any changes or requirements regarding school wellness policy should be based on the needs of the LEA and not predetermined based on one specific viewpoint, nor should this determination be made as result of a legislative mandate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0075</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Graduation Requirements - Fine Arts</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Grammer</p> <p>Specifying that a requirement to earn a credit in fine arts in order to graduate from a public high school may be satisfied by completing a course in computer science, multimedia, or computer programming.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Inclusion of computer science, multimedia, and computer programming undermines and dilutes the intended value of the Fine Arts component within public education. While Media Arts has been offered as a new component that would fall within the Fine Arts, the distinction between Media Arts and this bill's proposed courses is significant. While technology certainly can and should play a role in the delivery of a comprehensive artistic education, this bill suggests the inclusion of courses whose outcomes or curriculum are not based upon Fine Arts Standards. This proposed change warrants vocal opposition with no proposed amendment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0102</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Anne Arundel County Board of Education - Human Trafficking Awareness Pilot Program</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Chang</p> <p>Establishing the Human Trafficking Awareness Pilot Program in Anne Arundel County; requiring the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, to provide awareness and training for all school-based personnel on human trafficking; and requiring the Board of Education to report to the General Assembly, on or before July 1 each year, on the effectiveness of the Program.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</p> <p>This bill supports the worthy endeavor of providing human trafficking awareness. As a school system, AACPS welcomes the additional resources that we would receive from this bill. However, the training and reporting requirements are unmanageable and a local administration issue under the domain of the school system. Training all school-based staff on this issue is an unfunded mandate that the school system cannot support at this time. Likewise, we would not be able to report on the effectiveness of the Human Trafficking Program as we do not have baseline data to demonstrate the current issue and subsequently show the change</p>

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	<p>as a result of the program. As such, we support amendments to the bill which remove the training and reporting requirements. The sponsor has agreed to introduce the proposed amendments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0174/ SB0710</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Children With Disabilities - Individualized Education Program Process - Parental Consent</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Luedtke Senator Conway</p> <p>Requiring an individualized education program team to obtain written consent from a parent of a child with a disability if the team proposes actions concerning restraint or seclusion; requiring an individualized education program team, in specified circumstances, to send a parent written notice no later than 5 business days after the individualized education program team meeting that informs the parents of rights to consent or refuse to consent; and authorizing the use of specified dispute resolution options.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 174 would require the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to obtain written consent from a parent if the team proposes to use restraint or seclusion to correct the child's behavior, to reduce or terminate the amount of instructional or related services that are provided to the child, or to initiate a change in the child's educational placement. If the parents/guardians do not provide written consent at the IEP team meeting, the (IEP) team would be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide the parents/guardians with an oral and written explanation of the parent's right to mediation. • provide parents/guardians with contact information to use to receive information about the mediation process. • provide information regarding <i>pro bono</i> representation. • Send the parents/guardians written notice no later than five (5) business days after the team meeting informing that they have the right to either consent or write a refusal to consent. <p>This bill would have a negative impact on the family-school relationship. The school system would have to file due process proceedings against parents/guardians any time they refuse to consent to any changes to the IEP, even if the change is a result of updated State regulations (such as those related to PARCC assessments). HB 174 would strip any collaborative tone to the IEP process.</p> <p>Further, the bill essentially calls into question the educational expertise of administrators, school psychologists, school counselors, and instructional staff. It would result in an increase in due process proceedings, causing teachers to miss</p>

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	<p>more instructional time with students to testify in said hearings. Teacher absences would be disruptive and have a negative impact on student learning and achievement. Such absences would also have a substantial impact on AACPS, as substitute teachers would be needed to cover the time the teachers are in due process hearings.</p> <p>Another key concern raised by this bill relates to safety issues for students and staff. Under current law, parental consent is not required when there is a need to restrain or seclude a student in order to prevent the student from harming others or themselves. Unfortunately, there are numerous physically aggressive students in schools and there are times when restraint is necessary to protect them and others. The ability to intervene in this manner is becoming increasingly necessary to keep students and staff safe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0197/ SB0485</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education – Remote Classroom Technology Grant Program – Establishment (Peyton’s Law)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Luedtke Senator Serafini</p> <p>Establishing 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; requiring the State Department of Education to implement and administer the Program; authorizing the Governor to appropriate at least \$500,000 to the Program; and authorizing the Department to adopt regulations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0227</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - High School - Graduation Honor System</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Chang</p> <p>Authorizing a county board of education to establish a high school graduation honor system; requiring a county board that establishes a graduation honor</p>

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	<p>system to establish the grade point average required for each level of distinction; and requiring that the distinction be printed on the student's official transcript and high school diploma.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>House Bill 227 is unnecessary because a county board of education already has the authority to establish a graduation honor system. For example, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education recently adopted a <i>cum laude</i> grading system without this legislation. The requirement set forth in this bill that a county board of education place an honor or distinction on a student's official transcript requires that the code for the transcript printing be rewritten. A county board of education would incur a cost to make such a change. A county board of education receives high school diplomas from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Therefore, any change in what is included on a diploma, such as an honor or distinction, would require a change at (MSDE) as this process is not under the jurisdiction of a county board of education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0257/ SB0359</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Administration (Maryland Meals for Achievement for Teens Act of 2017)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Hixson Senator Madaleno</p> <p>Authorizing participating secondary schools to serve breakfast in any part of the school, including from "Grab and Go" carts; and clarifying when breakfast in the classroom should be served.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) currently offers the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) in-classroom breakfast program in 47 schools. The program has been credited with improving academics, behavior, and the well-being of students. This program provides all students with a free breakfast regardless of student eligibility, although, for a school to qualify, at least 40 percent of its enrolled students must be eligible for free and reduced-price meals.</p> <p>All AACPS schools that are eligible for MMFA, with the exception of Glen Burnie High School, participate and are currently enrolled in the program. Glen Burnie High School provides in-classroom breakfast after first period classes, which prohibits students from participating in MMFA. Additionally, the school layout and number of students prohibits the original MMFA model from being implemented. HB 257 would ensure that eligible students at Glen Burnie High School and all Maryland high schools can participate in the MMFA program.</p>

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	Passed
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0259/ SB0264</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Transportation Authority - Public School Buses - Exemption From Tolls</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Luedtke Senator King</p> <p>Requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority, beginning on or before January 1, 2020, to exempt school buses owned and operated by county boards of education from tolls, fees, or any other charges for the use of transportation facilities projects; and requiring the Authority to renegotiate the trust agreement with its bondholders to allow a school bus owned and operated by a county board of education to use a transportation facilities project without paying a toll, a fee, or any other charge.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>These bills would exempt public school buses owned and operated by county boards of education from tolls, fees, or other charges related to the use of transportation facilities such as bridges and tunnels. These bills would eliminate an unnecessary transfer between government entities of funds such as tolls and fees by excluding the collections of same on public school buses owned and operated by county boards of education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0263</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">School Bus Monitoring Cameras - Exclusion of Vehicle Rental Companies - Repeal</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Carr</p> <p>Altering the definition of “owner” to repeal the exclusion of motor vehicle rental companies as owners of motor vehicles for the purpose of the enforcement of violations of overtaking and passing school vehicles operating alternately flashing red lights that are recorded by school bus monitoring cameras.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>HB 263 removes the rental company owned/operated vehicle exemption from the list of vehicle “owners” who could receive a civil citation as a result of a recorded school bus monitoring system or penalty via a police officer for overtaking and passing a school bus vehicle operating its flashing red light system.</p>

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	<p>This bill will enhance safety levels for school buses, their drivers, and their occupants by eliminating an exemption that presently exists within Section 21-706.1 of the Transportation Article for motor vehicle rental companies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB286/ SB0001</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Specialized Intervention Services - Reports</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Conway</p> <p>Requiring county boards of education, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, to report information relating to the provision of specialized intervention services to the State Department of Education and the General Assembly on or before December 1 each year; and requiring county boards and the Department to publish annually this same information on their Web sites.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</p> <p>The requirements set forth in the bill would be burdensome because local school systems would be required to collect and report the requested data and would not see a benefit. Additionally, students requiring specialized counseling/behavioral supports to participate in the regular curriculum would likely be identified to receive special education services. However, AACPS supports creating a workgroup to further study this issue and identify best practices.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
<p>HB0287/ SB0361</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Hixson Senator Madaleno</p> <p>Altering the definition for specified fiscal years to determine the number of students used to calculate a specified grant for schools that participate in a federal food and nutrition program; and requiring the superintendent of each local school system to report to the General Assembly on or before September 1, 2017.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The bill would impose onerous and cumbersome reporting requirements on staff in the Division of Food and Nutrition Services, with hundreds of hours being required to fulfill the requisite reports under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, which allows high poverty schools (those with over 40 percent of students directly certified for free meals) to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students enrolled without collecting meal benefit applications.</p>

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	<p>If Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) was required to implement CEP, there could be significant confusion and hardship for families with multiple students who attend different schools (e.g., one student in a CEP school and one in a non-CEP school).</p> <p>Finally, the implementation of CEP would require AACPS to provide free lunch to more than 1,800 additional students at an approximate cost of \$466,000 (FY 2016 estimate).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0288/ SB0360</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Department of Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Funding (Free School Meals for Students From Low- and Middle-Income Families Act)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Hixson Senator Madaleno</p> <p>Repealing the requirement that the State Board of Education adopt and publish standards for the administration of a subsidized feeding program; requiring the State to be responsible for the student share of the costs of specified meals and prohibiting a county board from charging students eligible for a reduced price breakfast or lunch for any portion of the cost of a meal; altering the calculation for the reimbursement for specified meals to specified county boards of education.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>These bills are good for students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), where students receive more than 845,000 reduced-price each school year. These bills ensure that students living in poverty have access to and can consume nutritious and appetizing meals. With these bills, all students receiving reduced-price meals would be able to participate in the School Meals Program, thus 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. HB 288 also would also help to address unpaid student meal charges, which continue to increase in AACPS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0331/ SB0786</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Behavior Intervention Plans - Physical Restraint and Seclusion</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Luedtke Senator Zucker</p>

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	<p>Prohibiting a public agency and a nonpublic school from using physical restraint except under specified circumstances; prohibiting a public agency and a nonpublic school from using seclusion except under specified circumstances; requiring a public agency or a nonpublic school that uses seclusion to take specified actions; and requiring schools to report to the State Department of Education on or before December 1 each year specified information relating to physical restraint and seclusion incidents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 331 provides guidelines for the use of restraint and seclusion for students with and without disabilities. The bill also adds new reporting requirements, and includes a student’s “trauma-informed interventions” (defined as “a behavior intervention plan that is informed by the recognition of the impact that trauma, including violence, abuse, neglect, disaster, terrorism, and war may have on an individual’s physical and emotional health and ability to function”) in the definition of behavioral intervention plan. The proposed legislation would also prohibit the use of restraint except in cases of “imminent serious physical harm,” and those where other less intrusive and non-physical methods have been ineffective. The bill would also prohibit the use of seclusion, though AACPS policy and regulations do not permit the use of seclusion unless the student is in a nonpublic setting.</p> <p>The addition of trauma-informed interventions would require training beyond the eight-hour certification training AACPS staff currently receives. Additional training tools would have to be identified and obtained, and staff would need to spend additional time away from the students they serve in order to receive the training. While it is wise to have several instructional staff working with a student trained in positive behavioral interventions, a requirement that all adults working on a daily or routine basis be trained places an undue burden on LEAs and schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0341</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Student Transportation Safety Act</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Miele</p> <p>Requiring specified school vehicles in the State to be equipped with seat belts; prohibiting a person from operating school vehicles unless the person and each occupant are restrained by a seat belt; authorizing a local school system or a nonpublic school to establish policies regarding the restraint of pupils by seat belts on school vehicles; and requiring the operator of a school vehicle to notify the local school system or the nonpublic school the student attends if the student fails to comply with seat belt requirements.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2019</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>Local boards of education are responsible for funding transportation provided to students within their school systems. Those responsibilities have significantly expanded due to additional costs associated with the transporting of special education and homeless students. Operational expenses associated with fuel costs and labor shortages have also contributed to this increased cost. Although the State provides some funding for transportation, those dollars do not increase enough from year to year to cover increasing enrollments and increasing costs of obtaining and maintaining school buses.</p> <p>HB 341 proposes a new unfunded safety mandate. We believe that efforts should instead focus on securing adequate funding to enable local school systems to ensure maximum student safety according to industry standards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0344</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Retirement and Pension System - Disability Retirement and Workers' Compensation Benefits - Offsets</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Lierman</p> <p>Exempting ordinary disability retirement benefits from the requirement to be offset by related workers' compensation benefits; repealing the requirement for the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System to reduce accidental or special disability retirement benefits by related workers' compensation benefits; and requiring the Workers' Compensation Commission to reduce workers' compensation benefits by related accidental or special disability retirement benefits under specified circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill would remove the right of the Self-Insurance Fund to take credit in the form of an offset for injured workers receiving an ordinary disability retirement from the State. This bill would apply to injured workers the County insures as employees of Anne Arundel County Public Schools, which is more than half of the County's insured population. A review of claims during a recent five-year period reveals offsets of various weekly rates with a potential of up to \$4,000 in weekly benefits. Over a one-year period, this could result in an increased expenditure of \$200,000 by the Self-Insurance Fund and the taxpayers of the County.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0366/ SB0657</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Schools - Wellness Policy - School Meals</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Conaway Senator Young</p>

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	<p>Requiring county boards of education to add to a specified wellness plan on or before August 1, 2018, a specified plan for reducing students' added sugar intake per school meal based on recommendations from the United States Department of Agriculture.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>These bills exclusively address added sugar in school meals. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not consider sugar, by itself, an identified nutrient. Because of this, the USDA does not require the tracking of sugar, and as such, it is not included on the nutrient label. Large amounts of added sugar are not prevalent in school meals and all LEAs in the state of Maryland comply with the USDA and MSDE regulations.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) currently has a Wellness Council and a School Health Advisory Council that are in place to best meet the wellness needs of our students. The councils are comprised of multiple stakeholders looking at the health and well-being of the whole child, using the same structure as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – School Health Model.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Public School Holidays - Presidents' Day and Easter Monday</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Beidle</p> <p>Repealing the requirement that Presidents' Day and the Monday after Easter be public school holidays; and authorizing a county board of education to designate Presidents' Day and the Monday after Easter as public school holidays.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>By repealing the current requirement that Presidents' Day and the Monday after Easter to be public school holidays, this bill would allow county boards of education to utilize one or both of these days as they set their school calendars in accordance with current state law. HB 400 would provide county boards of education the flexibility in meeting the requirements established under a recent executive order requiring local school systems to commence classes for students after Labor Day and conclude them no later than June 15 each year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0413/ SB0319</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Act of 2017</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Speaker (By Request – Administration)</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">President (By Request – Administration)</p> <p>Establishing the Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Program; requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, to administer and develop the Program; requiring P-TECH students to be included in the full-time equivalent enrollment calculation for primary and secondary education and requiring the funding calculation for credit hours at a community college to include P-TECH students.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>These bills would replace the 2016 law which established a pilot program developed for secondary students to participate in a cohort to earn an Associate’s Degree or Accredited College Certificate in a technology approved pathway.</p> <p>The proposed legislation would require that 50 percent of participating students in the program be students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Last year, two Baltimore City schools began the pilot (one with a Health pathway and one with an IT pathway). Each school currently has 50 students enrolled in the program. The provision of these bills would expand the opportunity to other school systems, including AACPS, to participate in the program. If these bills pass, an RFP would be developed for other school systems to apply for funding. Such expansion of the program would help to support college and career readiness for AACPS students.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SB319 Passed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0425/ SB0651</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Schools - Suspensions and Expulsions</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Lierman</p> <p>Prohibiting prekindergarten students from being suspended or expelled from public schools; authorizing the suspension or expulsion of students in kindergarten, first grade, or second grade if the student has knowingly brought a firearm to school or has possessed a firearm at school; requiring the school to provide supports to address the student's behavior; and requiring the school system to remedy the impact of the student's behavior through specified intervention methods.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>At issue concerning the suspensions and expulsions of students is the balance between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a repeatedly disruptive student to attend a public school or receive publicly funded regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> students attending a public school to receive thorough instruction during the school year in an environment free of disruptive and detrimental behavior. <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports local flexibility to create and enforce consistent and fair disciplinary standards in order to respond to behaviors that violate its Code of Student Conduct. HB 425 would impose a “one size fits all” statewide approach to discipline, dictating under which circumstances schools must implement in-school versus out-of-school suspensions. This bill would limit the authority of school administrators and the school system to ensure the safety of all students and staff.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0458/ SB0604</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Visual Impairments - Requirements for Teacher Training, Student Screening, and Maryland Medical Assistance Program Coverage</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Kittleman Senator Bates</p> <p>Requiring, on or before July 1, 2018, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to require a certificate holder applying for renewal of a certificate as a teacher to complete a course on understanding and recognizing the symptoms of visual impairments; requiring the Board to approve a course that meets criteria regarding computerized screening to detect possible symptoms of visual impairments; requiring the Board to adopt regulations; and requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide each local health department with the equipment for the screenings.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) has several concerns with these bills, most notably teacher certification requirements being mandated or dictated by State legislation. AACPS also opposes any definition of handicapping conditions that exceeds what is stipulated under federal law, as well as requiring a computerized screening for visual impairments to each student with an IEP, regardless of any suspected difficulties with that student’s vision. Such requirements would result in the loss of instructional time for students with disabilities in order to complete unnecessary assessments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0461/ SB0452</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Accountability Program - Assessments (Less Testing, More Learning Act of 2017)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Luedtke Senator Manno</p>

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	<p>Requiring the State Board of Education to adopt regulations limiting the amount of time in the aggregate that may be devoted to federal, State, and locally mandated assessments for each grade to 2 percent of the specified minimum required annual instructional hours; and prohibiting time devoted to teacher-selected classroom quizzes and exams, portfolio reviews, or performance assessments from being counted toward the specified testing time limits.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County 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. Legislation such as these bills 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0495/ SB0154</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Vehicle Laws - School Bus Monitoring Cameras - Civil Penalty</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Kramer Senator King</p> <p>Increasing the civil penalty for a violation recorded by a school bus monitoring camera for failure to stop for a school vehicle operating alternately flashing red lights to an an increased amount of up to \$500.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>Anne Arundel County Public Schools supports these pieces of legislation because they promotes safety for our students while on school buses. We believe that increased penalties for failure to stop for a school vehicle operating alternately flashing red lights diminish such instances.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SB154 Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0497/ SB0760</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Grounds for Discipline</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Washington, A.</p>

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	<p>Altering procedures for suspending or dismissing public school personnel; authorizing public school personnel to request arbitration under certain circumstances; specifying the procedures for arbitration; assigning responsibility for costs to the county board; and providing that an arbitrator's award is final and binding on the parties, subject to review by a circuit court.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 497 would significantly alter current Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) policy and procedures concerning employee discipline. The bill would allow an individual recommended for termination to request a hearing before the county board of education or an arbitrator. If an arbitrator is selected, the arbitrator would determine whether a county board has sufficient cause for suspension or termination of the individual.</p> <p>HB 497 would essentially strip the authority of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County to determine the suitability of employees in the public school system for which they are accountable to govern. This bill would place the decision of whether or not to continue an individual's employment with AACPS in the hands of an independent third party who may or may not have the best interests of students in mind.</p> <p>Additionally, this bill is an unfunded mandate which could have a significant fiscal impact on the school system should employee bargaining units encourage arbitration over Board hearings. For example, arbitrators, per the negotiated agreement with our teachers association, are paid by the losing party. Depending on the time and length of hearings, the Board could be faced with both paying all costs of the arbitration and the cost of re-employing an unsuitable employee. The hearing costs associated with an arbitrator are typically much higher than the costs associated with a hearing examiner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0513</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Participants in Interscholastic Athletic Activities - Concussions - Penalties for Coaches</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Chang</p> <p>Requiring a county board of education, on the recommendation of the county superintendent, to suspend a coach who violates specified provisions of law relating to the removal from play of a student who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury in a practice or game and the return to play of the student; and requiring a county board to send to a coach a copy of specified charges and give the coach an opportunity to request a hearing before suspending the coach.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>HB 513 interferes with a school system’s autonomy to determine how to address the discipline of staff and personnel. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports local school systems retaining control of discipline procedures for coaches in accordance with current policies and regulation, as well as the guidelines outlined in the AACPS Athletic Handbook.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0516/ SB0581</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Atterbeary Senator Ferguson</p> <p>Establishing the Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving specified compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of specified expenses; and requiring the Workgroup to study and make recommendations, and report its findings to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education by September 1, 2017.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: June 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>It is important that Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) has a role in the workgroup these pieces of legislation create in order to help ensure that the impact of implementing universal pre-kindergarten on a larger school system is recognized. The expansion to universal pre-kindergarten would require AACPS to increase the number of pre-kindergarten classrooms by approximately 250. In addition to the staffing increase and building space, AACPS would also be impacted by the number of approved nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs, which are severely limited in portions of the county. AACPS currently partners with Head Start to provide some pre-kindergarten programs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0548/ SB0667</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Prekindergarten Student Assessment - Moratorium</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Shoemaker Senator Jennings</p> <p>Placing 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.</p>

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	<p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County 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. Legislation such as these bills 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0559/ SB0051</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workers' Compensation - Permanent Total Disability - Survival of Claim</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Clippinger Senator Klausmeier</p> <p>Providing that, under specified circumstances, the right to compensation for permanent total disability due in part to accidental personal injury or resulting from an occupational disease and payable under specified provisions of law survives to specified individuals under specified circumstances; and applying the Act prospectively.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) pools with Anne Arundel County in its Self-Insurance Fund for our workers' compensation coverage. These bills, specifically Section 9-641, would increase the indemnity exposure to the Board and will have a negative fiscal impact to the Anne Arundel County Self-Insurance Fund in that there is no total payout limit referenced in the bills. The Self-Insurance Fund does not currently track the number of awards that are terminated based on an injured worker's death or cause of death. As such, we cannot quantify the continuing expenditures that will occur if these bills pass. However, we do know that these bills would increase the expenditures for events that are beyond the responsibility of the employer. As a result, these bills would increase the workers' compensation indemnity exposure to the Board.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0611</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Handguns - School Employees - Handgun Permits and Carrying Weapons on School Property</p>

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	<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Impallaria</p> <p>Authorizing a county board to authorize school employees in the county board's school system to carry a handgun on school property under specified circumstances; and requiring the Secretary of State Police to issue a handgun permit to a person who is otherwise qualified and who is a school employee in a specified school system.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Safety in public schools remains increasingly important to local boards of education, as school-related security incidents and threats throughout Maryland and the nation have unfortunately called to mind. Educational leaders must be included in the continuing development of a homeland security plan. The pursuit of a safe school environment must be tempered by a balanced emphasis on the protection of individual student rights.</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports legislation and program initiatives that contribute to the safety and well-being of students in school and in the community. However, the Board opposes legislation proposed as “quick fixes” or “Band Aid” solutions such as HB 611, which would authorize school personnel to carry handguns on school property.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0616/ SB0232</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Attendance Policy</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Atterbeary Senator Manno</p> <p>Specifying that a student's absence from school due to the student's pregnancy or parenting needs is a lawful absence; requiring each county board of education to develop a written attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students that meets specific requirements enumerated in the bill.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</p> <p>Anne Arundel County Public Schools already has policy and regulation that are aligned with State attendance guidelines. As such, we propose that these bills be amended to remove Subsection C, which prescribes what each local school system must include in a pregnant student attendance policy. As amended, the bill would instead require each county board of education to adopt a policy to address the needs of pregnant and parenting students. However, the amendment would ensure local autonomy and allow school systems to determine how best to address their particular student needs as they are the entities best equipped to make these decisions.</p>

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Passed with Amendments	
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0652/ SB0335</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Career Apprenticeship Opportunity Act of 2017</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate McCray</p> <p>Requiring the State Board of Education to develop, on or before December 1, 2017, goals for percentages of high school graduates for completing specified career and technical education programs and earning specified credentials, and to develop a method to consider a student's attainment of a specified credential or completion of a specified apprenticeship program as equivalent to a specified Advanced Placement examination score for a specified purpose.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Dates: June 1, 2017 and July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>These bills aim to increase career apprenticeships to help address workforce needs in the State. They also call for the State to set a goal of 45 percent of students (by 2026) graduating from high school having completed a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program and earned Industry Credentials prior to graduation.</p> <p>Currently, fewer than 25 percent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) graduates have completed a CTE program and earned Industry Credentials. As such, significant funding would be needed to increase that number to the threshold prescribed by the bill, as the majority of AACPS programs are already operating at capacity. These bills are an unfunded mandate and would require significant funding to expand facility space to accommodate this growth in CTE programs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0669</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Schools - Boards of Education - Anonymous Two-Way Text Messaging Tip Programs</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Arentz</p> <p>Requiring each county board of education to establish an anonymous two-way text messaging tip program; establishing the purpose of the program is for a student, a parent, guardian, or close adult relative of a student, or a school staff member to report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation; requiring each county board of education to publicize the program in specified locations and venues; and establishing that specified information is confidential.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>HB 669 incorporates a “one size fits all” philosophy to the broad issues of school violence. This legislation attempts to address student safety concerns, but creates an unfunded mandate for county boards of education. HB 669 mandates specific technology applications that are subject to rapid evolution and obsolescence. There are significant concerns regarding how information is received, sorted, stored, disseminated, retained, and ultimately destroyed. Anne Arundel County Public Schools currently publicizes and utilizes a Student Safety Hotline for 24-hour opportunity to report bullying, harassment and all other forms of safety concerns. The legislation, as written, would create an unfunded mandate to require a two-way textual feature in addition to current local practice. This requirement is not evidence-based, and as such, qualifies as a “quick-fix” effort to address a complicated issue best addressed by local systems.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0692/ SB0334</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - School Emergency Air-Conditioning Fund - Established</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Haynes Senator Ferguson</p> <p>Emergency legislation establishing the School Emergency Air-Conditioning Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to public primary and secondary schools in the State to install air conditioning; requiring the Interagency Committee on School Construction to administer the Fund; requiring that in each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022, the Governor shall appropriate at least \$7,500,000 to the Fund; and requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: Upon Enactment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>These bills would create a new category of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding and require the inclusion of this new category in the State Capital Budget. Given the scarcity of resources and capital debt affordability levels, it is likely that the \$7.5 million in required funding under this bill would come at the expense of and displace other more traditional CIP projects. Air conditioning is already a permissible project type under the IAC procedures, so it does not need a carve-out of its own. Given that Anne Arundel County Public Schools does not have Category I projects and only a limited number of Category II projects, it is unlikely that AACPS would be the beneficiary of any, let alone significant, amount of this funding. More likely is that AACPS projects may be displaced by this competing program. Passage of these bills would result in an estimated loss of \$750,000 to \$825,000 in CIP support AACPS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0695/ SB0930</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Anne Arundel County - Property Tax - Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreements - Economic Development Projects</p>

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	<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Beidle Anne Arundel County Senators</p> <p>Providing for payment in lieu of taxes agreements for economic development projects, including the construction of a conference center, by Maryland Live Casino located in Anne Arundel County.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</p> <p>These bills would foster a more robust economic development environment within Anne Arundel County and encourage resulting economic development projects to provide or support an extraordinary and quantifiable service to the public sector, inclusive of schools. Anne Arundel County Public Schools recommends that the bills be amended to clarify that the language referring to the public benefit of the PILOT program includes the “benefit of public schools” in lieu of simply “benefit of schools.” A large part of the benefit of this project to AACPS would be the ability to utilize the proposed conference center for high school graduation and other select activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB705</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - PARCC Testing - Children With Disabilities (Ben's Rule)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Vogt</p> <p>Authorizing a parent or guardian of a child with a disability who is nonverbal to refuse to allow the child to participate in a Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment or its equivalent in a public school; and requiring that the refusal be documented in the Individualized Education Program of the child.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County 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. Legislation such as these bills 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0708</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Department of Education - Lacrosse Opportunities Program - Youth Lacrosse Nonprofit Organizations</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Walker</p> <p>Authorizing a youth lacrosse nonprofit organization to submit an application for a grant under the Lacrosse Opportunities Program; and requiring the State Superintendent of Schools or the State Superintendent's designee to provide grants to eligible youth lacrosse nonprofit organizations with programs that will increase opportunities for minority students to participate in lacrosse.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>This program aims to provide communities with access to safe and appropriate recreation and increased youth league athletic opportunities for children.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0786</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Individualized Counseling Services - Requirements</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Angel</p> <p>Authorizing school-based personnel to recommend a student to a school guidance counselor or a specified counseling program to determine whether the student needs a behavioral health assessment; requiring a school guidance counselor or a specified counseling program to obtain permission to assist an identified student in obtaining a behavioral health assessment, under specified circumstances; requiring a guidance counselor or a counseling program to obtain permission of the parent/guardian of a student to arrange services; and requiring a public school to provide space in the public school building for a student to meet with a counselor to receive individualized counseling services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>While we recognize that students with mental health needs require counseling support in order to be successful in school, it is not the role of the school counselors to serve as referral or booking agents for arranging for those students to receive services from outside providers. Rather, those employees should be discussing the student's mental health needs with parents and other Student Support Services staff in the school or school system, and providing referrals to outside providers when needed. The ethical standards adhered to by Student Support Services staff dictate that they should not be recommending a specific provider, but rather providing parent(s)/guardian(s) with several suggestions in order not to appear to be endorsing one practice over another. When it is appropriate, Student Services</p>

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	<p>Personnel provide mental health services to students in the school on a short-term basis.</p> <p>Mental health appointments during the school day would not only be disruptive to student learning, but also to the school counselor’s work day as they would have to find time to make those logistical arrangements. This requirement would negatively impact school counselors’ mandate to be working directly with students when they are in school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0845</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Public School Indoor Air Quality</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Miller, W.</p> <p>Establishing the Public School Indoor Air Quality Inspection, Evaluation, and Notification Program in the State Department of Education; requiring the Department, in consultation with the Board of Public Works and the Department of General Services, to establish the Program to enhance indoor air quality in public schools; requiring the Department to establish best practices for managing indoor air quality in public schools and provide a manual to local superintendents of education on or before July 1, 2018; and specifying reporting, notification, and follow-up requirements for MSDE and public school principals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>There are robust federal, State and local Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) standards, guidelines and recommended best practices already in place which govern the workplace and public schools. HB 845 would create another unit of State government within MSDE to develop best practices, investigate complaints, and recommend solutions to IAQ matters at the local level. It is important to note that Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) already has a robust environmental program focused on IAQ and other regulatory compliance matters. This bill would, undoubtedly, create significant unfunded mandates and response costs for AACPS at a time when the school system is facing extreme fiscal constraint.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0866/ SB1089</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Primary and Secondary Education - Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures - Digital Devices</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Arentz</p> <p>Requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to develop health and safety guidelines and procedures for the use of digital devices in public school classrooms; and requiring each county board of education to implement specified health and safety guidelines and procedures for the use of digital devices in public school classrooms beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.</p>

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	<p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This legislation attempts to address student safety concerns, but creates an unfunded mandate for county boards of education. Safety in public schools remains increasingly important to local boards of education as school-related security incidents and threats throughout Maryland and the nation have unfortunately highlighted. The pursuit of a safe school environment must be tempered by a balanced emphasis on the protection of individual student rights. However, HB 866 interferes with authority of county boards of education. Effective reform takes place best through cooperative planning within the local community rather than through top-down decisions. As decisions are made on the local level, local Boards of Education receive and rely on public input. The connection between neighborhoods and local public schools encourages participation by parent(s)/guardian(s) and other community members in the educational process so that everyone has a responsibility for and ownership of public education.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0878/ SB0704</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Charter School Act of 2017</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Speaker</p> <p>Establishing the Maryland Public Charter School Authority as a public chartering authority under the Maryland Public Charter School Program; specifying that employees of a public charter school authorized by the Authority are not public school employees, are exempt from State teacher certification requirements, and may refuse to join employee organizations; requiring the Authority to adopt specified policies regarding teacher induction, preparation, and development.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County remains supportive of all efforts, within the limits of its resources, which provide opportunities to implement school level reform and creative models of delivering instructional programs. However, there remains a need for a certain level of accountability to ensure first and foremost that students are learning and that public money is being spent appropriately.</p> <p>Charter schools should be established in response to an unmet need or resources the school system cannot provide. Charter school providers should collaborate</p>

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	<p>with the school system for additional school choice for students and parent(s)/guardian(s) in a strategic manner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0896/ SB0602</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Retirement and Pension System - State Employees and Teachers - Benefits</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Aumann Senator Bates</p> <p>Altering local employer contributions for members of the Teachers' Pension System; and establishing a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System and a State Employees' and Teachers' Integrated Pension System Savings Plan for individuals who are members of the Employees' Pension System or the Teachers' Pension System on or after July 1, 2018.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: June 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>As with other proposals to modify the Employees and Teachers Pension System, the potential adverse impact on the pension benefit an employee would receive would most certainly cause many employees who are currently eligible to retire to seriously consider doing so before the effective date of this proposed change in order to protect the benefit they have earned during their career. As a result, Anne Arundel County Public Schools could experience a significant increase in turnover before the effective date of the legislation, and would experience ongoing challenges with recruitment and retention thereafter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0940/ SB0987</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - School Vehicles Used by Private Entities - Seat Belt Requirement</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Haynes Senator Nathan-Pulliam</p> <p>Requiring that school vehicles used by a private, nongovernmental entity to transport specified pupils be equipped with seat belts; and prohibiting a person from operating a school vehicle for a private, nongovernmental entity to transport pupils, as specified, unless the person and each occupant under 16 years old is restrained by a seat belt.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>Local boards of education are responsible for funding transportation provided to students within their school systems. Those responsibilities have significantly expanded due to additional costs associated with the transporting of special education and homeless students. Operational expenses associated with fuel costs and labor shortages have also contributed to this increased cost. Although the State provides some funding for transportation, those dollars do not increase enough from year to year to cover increasing enrollments and increasing costs of obtaining and maintaining school buses.</p> <p>These bills propose a new unfunded safety mandate. Anne Arundel County Public Schools follows federal standards concerning school bus safety, and the inclusion of seatbelts on school buses is not a federal requirement. School bus safety involves a wide array of activities such as bus driver training, providing safe bus stops, maximizing student safety through the use of security cameras on buses, enforcing traffic laws for reckless drivers who illegally pass buses, and the design and construction standards of the buses themselves. In these ways local school systems, bus contractors, and local law enforcement agencies work to ensure the safest possible transport of students to and from school. We believe that legislative efforts should, instead, focus on securing adequate funding to enable local school systems to ensure maximum student safety according to industry standards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0975/ SB0370</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Digital Equity for All Maryland Students Act of 2017</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Frick Senator Rosapepe</p> <p>Establishing the School Broadband Upgrade Grant Program; providing that the purpose of the Program is to provide State and local funding for special construction to leverage federal funds for Category 1 and Category 2 services that are available through the federal E-rate program to install or upgrade Internet access in every public school in the State; and requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Program.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>While Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) would not take advantage of the Category 1 broadband Internet services such as broadband infrastructure upgrades, there is a possibility that AACPS could utilize the Category 2 related equipment such as routers, switches, and wireless access points through the funding made available by the proposed grant program. The above-referenced equipment is expensive, and efforts to reduce the AACPS portion of the cost to purchase these items would have a positive impact on our school system.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0978/ SB0871</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Accountability - Consolidated State Plan and Support and Improvement Plans (Protect Our Schools Act of 2017)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Luedtke</p> <p>Requiring an educational accountability program to include at least three school quality indicators; prohibiting the school quality indicators from being based on student testing; requiring academic and school quality indicators to be given equal weight; requiring a county board of education to develop and implement a Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan for schools identified as needing targeted support.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Effective reform takes place best through cooperative planning within the local community rather than through top-down decisions. As decisions are made on the local level, local Boards of Education receive and rely on public input. The connection between neighborhoods and local public schools encourages participation by parent(s)/guardian(s) and other community members in the educational process so that everyone has a responsibility for and ownership of public education.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB0980</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Children Exempt From Public School Attendance - Participation in Public High School Clubs and Activities</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate West</p> <p>Requiring local school systems to allow a child who is exempt from mandatory public school attendance to participate in public high school clubs and activities beginning September 1, 2017; requiring a child who participates in these activities to participate with the public high school to which the child would be assigned if the child attended public school, meet specified eligibility or tryout criteria, meet equivalent academic requirements, comply with standards of performance and behavior, and pay any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the school due to the child's participation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports local control of educational policy, curriculum, budgets, and administration. 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. HB 980 interferes with local decision-making authority and governance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1064/ SB0478</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Retirement and Pension System – Guaranteed Retirement Income Plan and Retirement Savings Plan</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Krebs Senator Eckardt</p> <p>This bill freezes benefits for current members of the Teachers’ Pension System and Employees’ Pension System and terminates their membership in the plans; closes both plans and the Optional Retirement Program to new members; and requires current members as well as all new State employees hired as of June 1, 2018, to make an irrevocable choice between participating in a cash balance plan or a defined contribution plan (the Retirement Savings Plan or RSP), both of which are established by the bill.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: June 1, 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>These bills would not grandfather over 8,600 Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) employees (approximately 83 percent) in the existing State pension and retirement plans and would likely encourage those currently eligible to retire to do so by the effective date of the bills because early retirement would be the only way for these individuals to protect their benefit. Additionally, the effective date could result in wave of employees retiring prior to July 1, 2018, thus requiring the school system to cope with insufficient staffing for the end of the school year. These bills would also adversely impact AACPS’ recruitment and retention efforts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1072/ SB0486</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State Employees and Teachers - Cash Balance Plan</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Szeliga Senator Serafini</p> <p>Establishing a cash balance plan under the State Retirement and Pension System; requiring that individuals who on June 30, 2018, are members of specified pension systems become members of the cash balance plan on July 1, 2018; requiring that individuals who are employed on or after July 1, 2018, by participating employers become members of the cash balance plan; and requiring the Board of Trustees of the State Retirement and Pension System to administer the cash balance plan.</p>

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	Effective Date: June 1, 2017
	OPPOSE
	<p>These bills would adversely impact the retirement benefit due to approximately 83 percent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) employees currently enrolled in the State pension and retirement plans. Additionally, the bills do not indicate any provision for a disability retirement benefit. The cash balance plan would significantly delay access to an early retirement benefit payout and reduce the number of pension payment options from seven to three. It would also increase the vesting period to 10 years, whereas impacted employees currently enjoy a 5-year vesting period.</p> <p>As a result of this adverse impact, AACPS anticipates an increase in the number of retirements that would occur prior to the effective date of this legislation. This would adversely impact the opening of schools for the 2018-2019 school year. The elimination of the Teacher's Pension System would also negatively impact AACPS' ability to recruit and retain teachers.</p>
	Failed
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
HB1080	Education - Universal Prekindergarten - Established
	<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Walker</p> <p>Requiring each county board of education to receive from the State a supplemental prekindergarten grant beginning in Fiscal Year 2019; establishing a formula for the calculation of the grant to each county; requiring the State to distribute a grant at the same time as the distribution of other specified funds; requiring the State to first use the Education Trust Fund for the grants; and requiring general funds to be used if there are insufficient funds in the Trust Fund to provide the specified required funds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>Strong state and county funding support of Pre-K –12 public education will ensure that all students have the programs, services, and instructional support needed to meet rigorous standards established for student performance. Anne Arundel County Public Schools supports full per-pupil funding allocation for students attending prekindergarten without any offsetting reduction in compensatory education funding.</p>
	Failed
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
HB1082/ SB1060	Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017 (Start Talking Maryland Act)
	<p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Bromwell</p>

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Senator Miller

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

Requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to assess drug court programs to determine how to increase and expand the programs; requiring the State Board of Education to establish standards for an addiction and prevention education training requirement; requiring the drug addiction and prevention education program to include instruction related to heroin and opioid addiction and prevention; requiring the instruction to be delivered in certain grade bands and as a stand-alone unit; requiring county boards of education and institutions of higher education to establish heroin and opioid addiction and prevention policies; requiring a certain policy to authorize school nurses to administer naloxone or other medications to a student who is determined to be suffering from an opioid overdose; prohibiting school nurses, campus police, and health personnel at institutions who respond to an overdose emergency from being held personally liable when having been properly trained and acting in good faith; requiring policies to include training, procedures, and provisions to require all public schools to retain and store naloxone; prohibiting school nurses, campus police, and health personnel at institutions who respond to an overdose emergency from being held personally liable when having been properly trained and acting in good faith; requiring county boards of education with 50,000 or more students to hire a community action official; requiring county boards with less than 50,000 students to coordinate with neighboring counties to hire a community action official; requiring community action officials to perform certain duties; requiring public schools to submit reports on each incident at the school or at a related school event that required the use of naloxone or other overdose-reversing medication to the State Department of Education; requiring the Department to develop and disseminate a form to schools; and requiring the Governor to include an appropriation of at least \$3,000,000 in general funds in the State budget for the Department for the purpose of awarding grants to county boards to implement the policy and conduct the training required under the act.

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Achieving health literacy for all students is dependent upon a comprehensive health education program. Anne Arundel County Public Schools provides students with curriculum designed from the Maryland K-12 Health Education Learning Outcomes. The outcomes are integrated throughout various disciplines. There is an emphasis on knowledge, skills, and personal vulnerability. Currently, Anne Arundel County Public Schools curriculum addresses Heroin and Opioid Education as outlined in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Health Education Standard 2 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs. AACPS also incorporates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Health Skills National Standards such as goal setting, decision making, and analyzing influences. Students are introduced to these topics as a part of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade health education curriculum. The topics further are expanded upon in High School Health Education (a 0.5 credit graduation requirement).

As a part of these curriculums we discuss the following:

- gateway drugs which can lead to heroin use and abuse;
- proper use, abuse, and misuse of prescription drugs and over the counter medicines;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refusal skills, peer pressure; • addiction; • legal consequences; and • health skills (decision making, analyzing influence, goal setting, communication skills for refusals) <p>AACPS is also reviewing multiple books on the topic of drugs (including over the counter medicine and prescription drugs) to be used as a part of the elementary learning experience for students in third through fifth grades. Additionally, AACPS has partnered with Anne Arundel County Government and the Anne Arundel County Crisis Center to educate teachers and students.</p> <p>AACPS supports the intent of this legislation as we have been a leader in this area. However, AACPS proposes several amendments to the legislation to ensure that local boards of education can help to implement a successful program. AACPS recommends the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Section 7-426.5, add language identifying health personnel and staff as there are schools that do not have school nurses and others. • Add language to identify the role of county health departments in some local school systems like AACPS where school nurses are employees of the county health department. • Remove all references to “community action official” and place the identified responsibilities with county health departments. • In page 5, in line 3, define “proper emergency follow-up procedures” referenced on page 5, in line 3. • Clarify that instruction delivered in grade bands in third through fifth grades shall be done via instructional materials to parents/guardians. This will allow local boards of education to determine the appropriate curriculum for middle school and high school students. <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1109/ SB1001</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems - County Boards of Education Payments</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Barnes, B. Senator Guzzone</p> <p>Providing that, for Fiscal Year 2017, county boards of education shall be relieved of a portion of a contribution for local employees of the Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems; providing for an allocation of payment relief; and requiring the Governor to provide an amount in Fiscal Year 2018 to be paid into accumulation funds of the State Retirement and Pension System if a specified condition is not met.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: June 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p>

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	<p>These bills would increase the minimum wage for employees starting to \$12/hour on July 1, 2019, and increase the minimum wage by \$1/hour each year thereafter until the minimum wage reaches \$15 an hour beginning July 1, 2022. This proposed would have a huge fiscal impact on Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) in the midst of fiscally challenging times for the school system. AACPS currently has approximately 700 employees who earn less than the wage that would ultimately be required under these bills.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1130</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Prekindergarten Programs - Online Registration</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Platt</p> <p>Requiring county boards of education to allow parent(s)/guardian(s) to register their children for publicly funded prekindergarten programs in person or online.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 1130 would create a barrier for families who do not have access to technology and provide an unfair advantage to families with access to technology. The purpose of the prekindergarten program is to provide first priority to economically disadvantaged students. However, if the slots are not filled by these economically disadvantaged students, they are then made available to other students who may have had an unfair advantage due to their families' access to technology. Additionally, we have concerns with the implementation of such an online registration. Currently, parent(s)/guardian(s) come to the school to register a child and must provide proof of residency and other required information. In-person registration also provides parent(s)/guardian(s) with the opportunity to meet school staff and personnel, and begin building critical relationships. Decision-making authority for registration procedures and processes should remain at the local level.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1143</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Pay Stub Transparency Act of 2017</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Lierman</p> <p>Altering the information that employers are required to give employees within 30 days after the first date of employment and for each pay period; requiring employers to provide employees with an explanation of how wages were calculated; and authorizing employees to collect \$100 in liquidated damages for each pay period that the employer failed to meet specified requirements, not to exceed \$2,500.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>The requirements set forth in HB 1143 are an unfunded mandate, as this bill would require additional coding and information on Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) pay stubs that is currently not being provided. AACPS also has concerns with the penalties and fees associated with the bill.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1145</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public School Employee Whistleblower Protection Act</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Tarlau</p> <p>Prohibiting a public school employer from (1) taking or refusing to take any personnel actions as a reprisal against public school employees who disclose to a supervisor an activity, policy, or practice of the employer that is in violation of a law, rule, or regulation, (2) providing information to or testifying before any public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any violation of a law, rule, or regulation by the employer, or (3) objecting to or refusing to participate in any activity, policy, or practice in violation of a law, rule, or regulation; providing that protections under the Act apply only if employees have a good faith belief that the employer is engaged or has engaged in unlawful activity and that the unlawful activity poses a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; requiring that prior to reporting to a supervisor the public school employee report the unlawful activity in writing to the public school employer and provide the employer a reasonable opportunity to correct the unlawful activity; authorizing public school employees to institute a civil action in the county where the violation occurred, where the employee resides, or where the public school employer maintains its principal office in the State; requiring that a public school employee file a civil action under this Act within six months after the retaliatory personnel action occurred or within six months after the employee first became aware of the retaliatory personnel action; establishing the remedies a court may impose; and providing a defense that the personnel action was based on grounds other than those protected under this Act.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 1145 is unnecessary, as employees can currently report to their supervisors issues such as those covered in this bill. If an employee does not feel comfortable reporting such information to a supervisor or member of management, the employee has the option to directly and anonymously report such information to the AACPS Fraud Hotline. Information received via the Fraud Hotline is logged in by staff and requires follow-up in order to resolve or close an issue. Additionally, this bill infringes upon the Superintendent's authority to assign and transfer staff under the Education Article, as it provides remedies that would authorize court to reinstate an employee to the same or an equivalent position held before the violation of the Act. Further, this legislation is not aligned with the current State Whistleblower Act. AACPS also has concerns that HB 1145 singles out school employees whereas county and municipal employees are not and would not be covered under the provisions of this legislation.</p>

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Passed with Amendments	
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1171/ SB1137</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public School Employees - Required Training on Retirement Benefits</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Vogt</p> <p>Requiring the State Department of Education to establish a training program for public school employees regarding available retirement benefits; requiring the Department to offer the training to public school employees at least once per year; requiring the Department to work in consultation with staff from the State Retirement Agency and staff from the Maryland Supplemental Retirement Plans to provide the training program; and requiring public school employees to attend the training each year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill is an unfunded mandate that will likely be passed onto local school systems in order to ensure that employees comply with its requirements. Employees currently have online access to information regarding the retirement system and supplemental programs. This information is also available via the state retirement agency, and through communications with their local school system's human resources department. HB 1171 also raises questions concerning when employees would complete the required training and whether local school systems would be required to pay employees to attend. Such an arrangement would result in an additional expense that school systems simply cannot absorb given the current fiscal realities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1195</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">High School Graduation Requirements - Student Service - Fire Fighting Training and Volunteer Hours</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Adams</p> <p>Providing that fire fighting training and volunteer hours may be used to satisfy student service if a student is required to complete hours for student service to graduate from a public high school.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County 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</p>

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	<p>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. Legislation such as these bills 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1222</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland School Discipline Reform Act</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Washington, A.</p> <p>Requiring each county board of education to adopt the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline as the code of discipline for the local school system; requiring the State Department of Education to disaggregate data in any student discipline data report in a specified manner; requiring the Department to collect data on alternative school discipline practices; and requiring the Department to implement standardized training practices on student discipline for all public school security personnel on or before July 1, 2018.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>At issue concerning the suspensions and expulsions of students is the balance between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the right of a repeatedly disruptive student to attend a public school or receive publicly funded regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools; and • the rights of students attending a public school to receive thorough instruction during the school year in an environment free of disruptive and detrimental behavior. <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports local flexibility to create and enforce consistent and fair disciplinary standards in order to respond to behaviors that violate its Code of Student Conduct. HB 425 would impose a “one size fits all” statewide approach to discipline, dictating under which circumstances schools must implement in-school versus out-of-school suspensions. This bill would limit the authority of school administrators and the school system to ensure the safety of all students and staff.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1240</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Individualized Education Programs - Burden of Proof in Due Process Hearings and Studies</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Kaiser</p>

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	<p>Requiring complaining parties to bear the burden of proof in due process hearings that are held to resolve a dispute relating to the provision of a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities; providing that a parent/guardian bears the burden of proof if the due process hearing relates to tuition reimbursement in a unilateral placement by the parent/guardian; requiring the State Department of Education to study and make recommendations regarding current population densities of students with the individualized education program (IEPs) in each local school system and geographic regions of the State; requiring the Department, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Legislative Services, to contract with a public or private entity to conduct a study of the IEP process in the State.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: June 1, 2017, July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Under current law, a parent/guardian requesting a change relating to the provision of a free appropriate public education for a student with disabilities, the burden remains with the parent. This bill, seeks to circumvent existing law that requires the party bringing the action to prove its case. The bill attempts to minimize the expertise of educational professionals making recommendations by making them presumptively wrong and must prove they are not. Additionally, providing an administrative law judge unilateral authority to shift the burden of proof with no standardization or restriction will confuse the issue at hand.</p> <p>By shifting the burden of proof, parent(s)/guardian(s) would be more likely to refute service recommendations by special education professionals if they know that the school system's only recourse to implement their recommendations would be via litigation. As a result, Anne Arundel County Public Schools anticipates that litigation fees would increase under this bill. Additionally, staff time and effort would be spent in increased litigation, thus negatively impacting students.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1268</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Student Achievement Gap Standard - Establishment (Maryland Student Achievement Act)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Washington, A.</p> <p>Requiring the Maryland State Department of Education to establish a standard to measure and quantify the student achievement gap, identify the student achievement gap between specified student groups, and issue best practices and annual benchmarks to close the student achievement gap between specified groups on or before July 1, 2018; and requiring a local school system to document the student achievement gap in the district for the previous 20 years and develop a five-year strategic plan to close the student achievement gap.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>The Anne Arundel County Board of Education’s single strategic goal is to accelerate the academic learning and engagement of all students while eliminating all achievement, experience, and opportunity gaps. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports an equitable learning environment that promotes an atmosphere of respect and nondiscrimination for all students and staff members regardless of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or disability.</p> <p>It is the mission of AACPS to educate all students to be well-prepared for college and the workforce, and to empower them to create a better quality of life for themselves, their communities, and the next generation. Leading the effort to eliminate all gaps at AACPS is the Office of Equity & Accelerated Student Achievement, which was established to work with schools, parents, and the community in order to elevate all students and eliminate all gaps. The office aims to maximize student achievement by offering multi-faceted supports designed to help schools develop a responsive and equitable school culture, implement quality instruction that is research-based, differentiated and relevant, and provide enrichment opportunities for all AACPS students.</p> <p>AACPS has already taken the initiative to address the issues HB 1268 seeks to ameliorate. While well-intentioned, HB 1268 is unnecessary and interferes with local board authority and governance. Maryland statute provides that “educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of a county board of education” and that local boards “determine, with the advice of the county superintendent, the educational policies of the county school system.” Local boards of education exercise this governance authority in compliance with State and federal laws and in conjunction with the State Board of Education, which adopts statewide regulations and policies in accordance with state and federal statutory authority.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1305</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Fennell</p> <p>Altering the date beginning on which a certain State minimum wage is required to be paid and specifying that the State minimum wage rate is \$12.50 an hour beginning on July 1, 2019.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This proposed legislation would have a significant fiscal impact on Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) in the midst of fiscally challenging times for the school system. AACPS currently has approximately 700 employees who earn less than the wage that would be required under this bill.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1310</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Ebersole</p> <p>Requiring the State Department of Education to establish the Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program on or before July 1, 2018; specifying that the purpose of the Program is for the Department to administered this voluntary certificate program for advocates; specifying qualifications and application procedures for a certificate; requiring the Department to issue a certificate to any applicant who meets the requirements set forth in the bill; and authorizing an applicant to petition for judicial review of a decision of the Department that relates to issuing or renewing a certificate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS</p> <p>Maryland does not currently have any quality control, certification, or training requirements for individuals who refer to themselves as advocates or, support parents of students with special needs. By establishing a voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program, this bill could ensure that special education advocates have the necessary training and certification to properly support parents. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) proposes that the bill be amended to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a face-to-face component to the training which would allow for greater opportunity for learning; • clarification on how “good moral character” can be determined; and • a mechanism for others to express concern to the Department when a certificated advocate is not acting professionally or in the best interest of students and families. <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1341</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Public School Transparency and Accountability Act</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Washington, A.</p> <p>Requiring the county commissioners, county council, or City Council of Baltimore to establish an Office of the Inspector General if the local school system has received 10 or more repeat findings in a specified audit by the Office of Legislative Audits.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>HB 1341 is an unfunded mandate which could have a significant fiscal impact on local school systems because local school system expenditures would increase in order to establish an IG office. Under current law, the Office of Legislative Audits</p>

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	<p>(OLA) must conduct an audit of each local school system at least every six years to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the system’s financial management practices. Specifically, local school systems are audited in the areas of procurement, human resources/payroll, inventory control, information technology, transportation services, food services, school board operations, financial controls, and facility planning/construction. The audits take an enormous amount of staff time and participation. During the last Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) legislative audit, as an example, auditors spent 11 months in AACPS offices.</p> <p>OLA audits are only one level of school system accountability. As a local education agency, AACPS also has an annual audit conducted by independent external auditors as well as single audits for all grants. Additionally, AACPS has periodic audits from the Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland State Retirement Agency. AACPS also has an independent internal auditing department tasked with providing spot audit functions over AACPS system activities, including assets and resources, fiscal matters, programs and operations, and technology. As the above information illustrates, local school systems already undergo significant oversight. As such, the establishment of and IG office would be unnecessary and duplicative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1351/ SB0458</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Foreign Language Requirement - Computer Programming Language Courses</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Ready Delegate Rose</p> <p>Allowing county boards of education to authorize a student to satisfy a State or county middle or high school foreign language requirement by completing a course in computer programming language.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County 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. Legislation such as these bills 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1416/ SB0962</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Labor and Employment - Payment of Minimum Wage Required (Fight for Fifteen)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Waldstreicher Senator Madaleno</p> <p>Specifying the State minimum wage rate in effect for specified time periods based on employer size; increasing, except under specified circumstances, the State minimum wage rate based on the annual growth in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area; requiring the Board of Revenue Estimates during a specified time period to conduct an analysis of the economy of the State; and authorizing, under specified circumstances, the Governor to temporarily suspend a minimum wage rate increase.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>These bills would increase the minimum wage for employees starting at \$12/hour on July 1, 2019, and increase the minimum wage by \$1/hour each year thereafter until the minimum wage reaches \$15 an hour beginning July 1, 2022. This proposed legislation would have a significant fiscal impact on Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) in the midst of fiscally challenging times for the school system. AACPS currently has approximately 700 employees who earn less than the wage that would ultimately be required under these bills.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1476/ SB0867</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workers' Compensation - Failure to Report Accident or Action to Deter or Dissuade From Filing a Claim - Penalties</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Glenn Senator Klausmeier</p> <p>Altering the penalties, by making it a jailable offense, imposed on an employer who fails to report an accidental personal injury within the time required under the workers' compensation law; providing that an employer who takes an action to deter or dissuade a covered employee from filing a workers' compensation claim application form is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to penalties, including an increase fine and jail time up to six months; and requiring an employer to pay to a covered employee the lost compensation or benefits if the employer's conduct caused the employee to not receive compensation or benefits to which the employee otherwise would have been entitled.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>These bills would subject a “manager, an executive, or an officer of the employer” to “imprisonment not exceeding six months” for deterring or dissuading a covered employee from filing a workers’ compensation claim. This legislation exposes the employer to addition legal action, which could result in expenses related to the costs of litigation. AACPS also has concerns with the increase in penalties, most notably the language surrounding a jailable offense, which would be established under these bills.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1486</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs - Research-Based Reading Instruction</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Stein</p> <p>Requiring the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, on or before January 1, 2019, to require a candidate for a certificate to teach (1) students with disabilities, (2) as a reading specialist, (3) as a reading teacher, or (4) as a kindergarten through fifth grade teacher to pass a test of research-based reading instruction; requiring the Board and the State Board of Education to jointly set the passing score for the test, subject to a specified condition; requiring the Board and the State Board to jointly set standards for the delivery of research-based reading instruction by teacher preparation programs in the State; and requiring the standards to include (1) direct systematic intensive instruction in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • phonemic awareness; • sound–symbol word attack skills (phonics); • vocabulary development; and • development of comprehension skills; and <p>(2) ample practice in decodable texts designed to foster reading fluency.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Anne Arundel County Public Schools is opposed to teacher certification requirements being mandated or controlled by the General Assembly. Current Maryland State teacher certification requirements require teacher candidates to pass Praxis I and all teachers to have 12 semester hours in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • processing and acquisition of reading; • instruction of reading; • materials of teaching reading; and • assessment for reading instruction. <p>The Maryland Framework for College and Career Readiness clearly outlines the standards local education agencies must include in curriculum documents. Materials of instruction are selected and approved through local committees of educators to determine alignment, appropriateness and quality of the resource.</p>

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Failed	
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1560</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum - Consent</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Kelly</p> <p>Requiring a county board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on consent as part of the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum in all grades in which the curriculum is taught in public schools in the county beginning in the 2017-2018 school year; and defining “affirmative consent” as clear, unambiguous, knowing, informed, and voluntary agreement between all participants to engage in each act within the course of sexual activity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum or assessment matters. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and local Boards of Education, as they are the entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate curriculum and assessments. HB 1560 would require Anne Arundel County Public Schools to adjust current curriculum to meet the requirements set for in this bill. Additionally, the bill does not provide sufficient time to substantively revise and update the curriculum prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year as mandated by HB 1560. Currently, Family Life and Human Sexuality is not taught until sixth grade, and AACPS does not believe that a discussion on “affirmative consent” would be appropriate during this introduction to Family Life and Human Sexuality.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>HB1603</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - County Boards of Education - Removal of County Superintendents</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Delegate Atterbearn</p> <p>Authorizing county boards of education to remove a county superintendent of schools under specified circumstances; requiring a county superintendent who has been removed to be compensated subject to the terms of the superintendent’s contract or, if no such terms exist, for the remainder of the county superintendent's term.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Under existing law, the State Superintendent of Schools may remove a county superintendent for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • immorality;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • misconduct in office; • insubordination; • incompetency; or • willful neglect of duty. <p>This bill would also extend removal authority to county boards of education. Anne Arundel County Public Schools opposes efforts by the General Assembly to alter the current process for the removal of a school superintendent. HB 1603 is contrary to the current and longstanding practices of the State, and eliminates due process and checks and balances. The State Board of Education addressed this issue in <i>Metts v. Prince George’s County Board of Education</i>, MSBE Opinion No. 02-05 (2002) where the Board stated, “[T]he legislature intended to design a hierarchical system in State elementary and secondary education that establishes the State Board and the State Superintendent as the final authority on educational policy and the administration of the public school systems of the State. While the local boards and local superintendents are charged with carrying out that policy, the manner in which they execute their responsibilities is subject to State oversight and review.” Additionally, even when a superintendent’s contract arguably allowed for the county board alone to terminate the agreement and remove the superintendent from office, the State Board of Education has found such a provision contrary to public policy and, therefore, voidable.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0044</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Records Management and Preservation - State and Local Government Units - Responsibilities</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee</p> <p>Applying specified provisions of law regarding records management and preservation to instrumentalities of the State, counties, and municipalities; altering the procedures required to be included in a program for the management of records; requiring each head of a unit to designate a records officer to carry out specified functions; requiring a records officer to notify the State Archives that records of the unit are no longer needed for the transaction of business; etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The vast majority of documents and records at Anne Arundel County Schools (AACPS) relate to AACPS’ work of public business. As such, it would be a mammoth task to preserve and transfer all the covered documents AACPS creates or receives to the State Archives. As defined in Senate Bill 44, the term “records” includes any documentary materials in any form created or received by any agency in connection with the transaction of public business. The definition is overly broad.</p> <p>As such, AACPS would be required to preserve and transfer immeasurable documents and materials conducted in the normal course of business. It is very difficult to fully assess the fiscal impact this proposed legislation would have on</p>

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	<p>AACPS, but it would be massive. We would be required to hire several staff and purchase various technologies to extract records from our data systems, encrypt them, and transfer to State Archives. Senate Bill 44 would result in an undue burden on AACPS and other units of government. Additionally, Senate Bill 44 raises questions regarding confidentiality that are not addressed in the bill.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0051</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workers' Compensation - Permanent Total Disability - Survival of Claim</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Klausmeier</p> <p>Providing that the right to compensation for permanent total disability due in part to accidental personal injury or resulting from an occupational disease and payable under specified provisions of law survives to specified individuals under certain circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County pools with Anne Arundel County in their Self-Insurance Fund for our workers' compensation coverage. This bill would increase the indemnity exposure to the Board of Education and would have a negative fiscal impact to the Anne Arundel County Self-Insurance Fund. AACPS does not currently track the number of awards that are terminated based on an injured worker's death or cause of death, thus, making it difficult to fiscally quantify the continuing expenditures that will result with the passing of this bill. However, we can say that without a doubt there will be additional payments made. These payments would be made for unknown durations and could be many years, which will increase the cost of workers compensation program for events that are beyond the responsibility of the employer. This is the purpose of life insurance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0060</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Primary and Secondary Education - Health and Safety (Sugar-Free Schools Act)</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Young</p> <p>Requiring county boards of education to develop a plan on or before August 1, 2018, for reducing students' total sugar intake per school meal based on specified recommendations; requiring each county board to convene a workgroup to study the best practices of other jurisdictions to lower students' total sugar intake per school meal, consider whether the results of the study would be appropriate in the local school system, and make recommendations to the county board based on specified information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Senate Bill 60 requires each county Board of Education to convene a workgroup to study the best practices of other jurisdictions regarding methods of lowering students' total sugar intake per school meal, to consider the best practices implementation in the local school system, and to make recommendations to the county board based on the group's work. The workgroup shall include parents, students, teachers, school administrators, medical professionals, and nonprofit organizations from the county in which the board is located. The workgroup shall hold at least two public hearings and provide an opportunity for public testimony at each meeting.</p> <p>The workgroup proposed in Senate Bill 60 is unnecessary if a county meets or exceeds the nutritional guidelines set forth by the United State Department of Agriculture. Anne Arundel County Public Schools currently has a Wellness Council and a School Health Advisory Council that are in place to best meet the wellness needs of our students. The Councils are comprised of multiple stakeholders looking at the health and well-being of the whole child, using the same structure as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – School Health Model.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0153</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Schools - Length of School Year Adjustment - State of Emergency</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator King</p> <p>Authorizing a county board of education to adjust the length of the school year for up to 5 school days without applying for a specified waiver if normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions that require the Governor to declare a state of emergency; and prohibiting education funding from specified sources from being reduced under specified circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>SB 153 would allow local school systems the flexibility to adjust their school calendars without going through the lengthy school calendar waiver process. This bill does not require boards of educations or superintendents to automatically shorten the school year. However, it provides one more tool to make the school calendar work for their respective school systems. SB 153 would also assist county boards of education in meeting the requirements established under a recent executive order requiring local school systems to commence classes for students after Labor Day and conclude them no later than June 15 each year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0155</p>	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">School Vehicles - Seat Belts - Requirements</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Brochin</p> <p>Requiring school vehicles registered in the State and purchased on or after July 1, 2018, regardless of the date the school vehicle was manufactured or assembled, to be equipped with specified seat belts for every seat on the school vehicle; and providing for the application of specified requirements relating to seat belts on school vehicles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>Senate Bill 155 proposes a new unfunded safety mandate. Efforts should instead focus on securing adequate funding to enable local school systems to ensure maximum student safety according to industry standards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0263</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Maryland High School Diploma - Civics Test Requirement</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Bates</p> <p>Requiring a student to achieve a passing score on a civics test that consists of the 100 questions used for the civics portion of the naturalization test given the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; requiring, on or before the first day of the 2018-2019 school year, the State Board to determine the means of providing each high school student an opportunity to take the required civics test; and requiring a student to answer correctly at least 60% of the civics test questions to receive a passing score.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County 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. Legislation such as these bills 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
SB0342	<p style="text-align: center;">Driver's Licenses - School Bus Drivers - Requirements</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Edwards</p> <p>Repealing the requirement that an individual receive a specified endorsement on the individual's commercial driver's license in order to drive a school vehicle.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>SB 342 would eliminate the requirement for a driver of a school bus in Maryland to have an "S" (School Bus) endorsement on their commercial driver's license (CDL). Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the public expect that drivers licensed to operate school buses are trained and certificated at the highest practicable levels by federal and state government. The elimination of the "S" endorsement on a CDL would work counter to that expectation and potentially lessen the safety levels for students traveling via school buses, as well as the greater public at large.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
SB0346	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Prekindergarten Students - Funding</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Conway</p> <p>Establishing supplemental prekindergarten grants beginning in Fiscal Year 2019; providing for the calculation of these supplemental prekindergarten grants; requiring prekindergarten students to be included in an enrollment count for purposes of calculating State aid formulas for education; and prohibiting the Act from being construed to authorize the inclusion of prekindergarten students in the county or statewide wealth per pupil education aid calculations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>Strong state and county funding support of Pre-K –12 public education will ensure that all students have the programs, services, and instructional support needed to meet rigorous standards established for student performance. Anne Arundel County Public Schools supports full per pupil funding allocation for students attending prekindergarten without any offsetting reduction in compensatory education funding.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>

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BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
SB0458	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Foreign Language Requirement - Computer Programming Language Courses</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Ready</p> <p>Allowing county boards of education to authorize a student to satisfy a State or county middle or high school foreign language requirement by completing a course in computer programming language.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County 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. Legislation such as these bills 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
SB0538	<p style="text-align: center;">Public School Construction - Regulations - Equitable Distribution of Projects and Improvements</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Salling</p> <p>Requiring the Board of Public Works, at the recommendation of the Interagency Committee on School Construction, to adopt specified regulations that require each local school system to use a specified method for determining funding requests for public school construction projects and public school capital improvements that will result in an equitable distribution of projects and improvements in each legislative district within the geographical boundary of the local school system.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>SB 538 would usurp both the authority and the prioritization algorithms utilized by local boards of education and local superintendents of schools over the selection and ranking the order of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. This bill would impose a legislative district “equitable distribution” test on both the Board of Public Works and the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction. As such, the sound facilities planning, facilities utilization, and facilities assessment</p>

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	<p>algorithms long utilized by local education agencies would be usurped by a legislative district balance litmus test.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
SB0618	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Achievement School District - Establishment</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Serafini</p> <p>Establishing the Achievement School District in the State Department of Education; specifying the purpose of the Achievement School District is to transform into high quality public schools all public schools in the State determined by the Department to enroll students whose academic performance ranks in the lowest 5% in the State; specifying criteria for the absorption of specified public schools into the Achievement School District; and requiring a local school system to cooperate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: October 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County remains supportive of all efforts, within the limits of its resources, which provide opportunities to implement school level reform and creative models of delivering instructional programs. However, there remains a need for a certain level of accountability to ensure that students are learning and that public money is being spent appropriately. By creating an achievement school district to oversee and have authority over identified schools, SB 618 interferes with local governance and authority over public schools and we oppose any legislative or regulatory initiatives, such as SB618, which would reduce local board governance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
SB0625	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Schools and Shelters - Homeless Girls and Women - Feminine Hygiene Products</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Benson</p> <p>Requiring each county board of education to make available to homeless female students a specified supply of feminine hygiene products; authorizing funds provided by the Department of Human Resources to local administering agencies for service providers and to service providers to be used to purchase a supply of feminine hygiene products for homeless female students.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p>

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	<p>The school nursing program in place at Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) is funded by the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, and the provisions of health needs falls under the hospices of the County. Currently, feminine hygiene products are available for students in need in the school health rooms. However, the section in this bill that would require a school to provide a free supply of feminine hygiene products sufficient to meet the needs of students is overly broad. It is also unclear whether a school would be required to provide feminine hygiene products for the school, home, holidays, and summer vacation, or any other time. The lack of clarity in the bill would make it difficult for a school to ensure compliance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed with Amendments</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0864</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Education - Overdose on Public School Premises - Substance Abuse Treatment Programs</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Klausmeier</p> <p>Altering the exclusive original jurisdiction of a circuit court for a county sitting as the juvenile court to include a child who is alleged to have overdosed on public school premises; requiring a school official to file with a juvenile court a petition alleging a child has overdosed on public school premises in violation of specified regulations; and requiring a juvenile court to order a child who has overdosed on public school premises to enter a State certified substance abuse treatment program.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill would require that school officials file with a juvenile court a petition alleging a child has overdosed on public school premises in violation of regulations relating to the possession of illegal drugs by students on public school premises. SB 864 raises many questions and concerns. The bill references the responsibility of public school officials to file a petition with juvenile court, but Anne Arundel County Public Schools' health rooms are staffed by the County Department of Health personnel and not school system staff.</p> <p>Further, the reference to a child overdosing on "public school premises" is problematic because other agencies and entities (i.e. recreation and parks, boy scouts, churches, etc.), utilize Anne Arundel County Public Schools buildings and facilities. AACPS would have no way of knowing if a child overdosed on our premises when a building or facility is being used by other community partners.</p> <p>SB 864 would also require public school officials to make such a petition even if the official suspects a drug reaction or overdose. However, it would be a medical institution that would make this determination. Unless a medical institution notifies a school that an overdose has been confirmed, the school would not be in a position to verify such an occurrence. In addition, current laws protecting health information may make it impossible for a medical institution to notify a school or a</p>

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	<p>school official in order for that school official make the report required under this bill.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>
BILL	TITLE/SYNOPSIS/RECOMMENDED POSITION
<p>SB0994</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2017</p> <p><i>Sponsored by:</i> Senator Rosapepe</p> <p>Renaming the Maryland Stadium Authority to be the Maryland Construction Authority; authorizing governmental units to request specified assistance from the Authority regarding public school facility construction projects; establishing a design-construct-operate-maintain-finance arrangement as an alternative financing method; providing that specified construction costs that exceed a specified amount per student are ineligible for State funding; etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Effective Date: July 1, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>SB 994 would repurpose the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to the Maryland Construction Authority (MCA) for the explicit purposes of allowing MCA to now delve into designing, procuring and constructing public school buildings within Maryland. The MCA would not fully operate in the manner previously mandated under the Inter-Agency Committee for Public School Construction (IAC) or adhere to certain of the design, procurement. Under a separate provision, it also allows for a local education agency (LEA) to enter into a Private Partnership Agreement (PPA) to transfer public lands to/and allow private for profit entities to construct, own, maintain, and operate public schools in Maryland.</p> <p>SB 994 would significantly recast a well-regarded and well-run public school construction program that has been held out as a national model since 1971. The State and LEAs have forged a balanced approach to funding, oversight and a solid working relationship. While clearly not perfect, and always in need of examination, the system has worked for over 45 years. At present, the 21st Century School Facilities Commission is studying this very issue and will issue a report, with a report expected to be delivered in time for the 2018 Legislative Session. SB 994 would pre-empt the work of the Commission and substantively reshape the landscape of public school construction in Maryland.</p> <p>Additionally, this bill has the potential to significantly lessen the amount of State Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding allocated for AACPS CIP projects via the newly imposed \$30,000 per student cap that will be superimposed upon our already exceptionally low 50% State contribution level cap. While project specific, this newly imposed cap could potentially cost AACPS millions of dollars in CIP funding per year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed</p>