

***ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION***  
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

---

**TITLE: County Boards of Education – Limit on Liability**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 575**

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

**HEARING DATE: February 25, 2016**

**COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings**

**CONTACT PERSON: Jessica S. Cuches, Esq. 410-224-8561**

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 575. This Bill seeks to increase the limit of liability for claims against local boards of education from \$100,000 per individual claim to \$400,000 per individual claim.

Our school system combines with Anne Arundel County in their Self Insurance Fund for our liability coverage. This Bill quadruples the potential liability exposure of all local boards of education and will have a particular negative fiscal impact for the Anne Arundel County Self-Insurance Fund in which we participate. Accordingly, the negative impact of this Bill will be borne by all Anne Arundel County citizens. The existing liability limits are appropriate for claims against the Board of Education and its employees, and they preserve the careful balance between the County's obligations to provide public education to its citizens while maintaining a reasonable level of monetary protection in the event of an accident. Increasing the limit of liability for claims against local boards of education will not only substantially increase the self-insured coverage costs to Anne Arundel County, and all other counties in the state, but will also have the unintended consequence of encouraging higher damage claims, many of which turn out to be unfounded, but only after the County incurs the substantial costs of presenting a defense.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** Report on Senate Bill 575.