

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TITLE: Anne Arundel County Public Schools – Adjunct Instructor Program

BILL NUMBER: HB 617

POSITION: SUPPORT

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2016

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

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The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **SUPPORTS** House Bill 617. This Bill would provide our school system with the opportunity to establish and implement an adjunct instructor program to meet the demand for qualified individuals to provide instruction in grades 6 through 12 in specialty or hard-to-fill subjects. Individuals would be hired on a part-time basis to teach limited classes (not more than 50% of a school day).

To qualify for certification as an adjunct instructor, an individual shall be employed in or retired from an industry or profession related to the specialty area in which the individual will be teaching or have instructional experience in a branch of the United States military. The individual must also hold a current applicable license or certificate in good standing for the related industry, have at least 3 years verified experience in the industry or as an instructor in the United States military and agree to complete 9 credit hours regarding pedagogy, classroom management, and the policies, regulations, and practices of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Adjunct instructors under this program shall have the same authority as a certificated teacher for the purposes of supervising and managing a classroom, maintaining and handling student records, evaluating student performance, and assigning course grades. Adjunct instructors will be on a year-to-year certificate for their unique subject area. At the discretion of the school system, that certificate may be renewed annually. It may not be transferred to another school system or course of study.

New fields of study and careers have become available to our students, often occurring at the intersection of disciplines rather than falling solely into one content area. These fields include environmental media and organic electronics. The pace of technology and innovation creates new fields of study – such as nanotechnology and bioinformatics – that may not have existed even just five years ago. In order to be responsive to this changing global context, Anne Arundel County Public Schools introduces coursework and experiential opportunities in these fields that require specialized instruction and instructors. This Bill would provide us with the opportunity to staff the unique and hard to fill classes with practitioners in these emerging fields.

If passed, this Bill would provide our students the opportunity to learn from practitioners in the field by allowing them to see how what they are learning in their classrooms translates into practice in their related industry. Concurrently, it will grow our collaboration with the business community providing continued connections between schools, business partners, and the community.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** Report on House Bill 617.