

## **Maryland Association of Boards of Education**

### **Legislative Committee**

**Joy Schaefer, Chair**

**February 9, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon**

### **Agenda**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Joy Schaefer, Chair**

### **Holds for Legislative Committee Decisions**

**John Woolums, MABE**

Three “companion” bills are being proposed by [Delegate Luedtke](#), but only one has been introduced as of today, to address the issue of sexual abuse and assault through new requirements for local boards of education and MSDE.

**Public and Nonpublic Schools - Sexual and Physical Abuse Notification and Prevention** - Providing that if an employee or an adult working on school property as a contractor, subcontractor, or a paid leader of a school activity is arrested for a reportable offense (crimes of child sex abuse/certain other crimes of violence) the law enforcement agency making the arrest shall notify the local school system. Within 5 days of the notification the school system must notify school employees and parents of students who attend any school in the county where the accused worked during the school year in which the incident occurred. All school employees must receive annual training in identifying signs of sexual abuse and assault.

**Children - Child Care Facilities, Public Schools, and Nonpublic Schools - Contractors and Subcontractors** - Requiring criminal history records checks, and expanding the prohibition on a school system knowingly hiring persons convicted of certain crimes to include contractors and subcontractors for the school system.

**HB 383 - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Development and Implementation** - Requiring the State Board of Education to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention. The program is to be taught by teachers who are trained to provide instruction on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention. The bill also applies to nonpublic schools.

## **Bill Positions**

**John Woolums, MABE**

**HB 166/SB 310 - Education - Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Act** – Establishment - Establishing the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program; providing for the purpose of the Program; providing that participation in the Program by a local school system is voluntary; providing that, beginning with the graduating class of 2016, specified eligible students shall receive the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy affixed to a diploma or transcript under specified circumstances; requiring the State Board of Education to establish specified criteria and requirements on or before October 1, 2015; etc. [Delegate Gutierrez/Senator Rosapepe](#) (Support)

**HB 215/SB 183 - Education - Geographic Cost of Education - Requirement** - Requiring that the county boards of education receive a specified grant to reflect regional differences in the cost of education that are due to factors outside of the control of the local jurisdiction; and repealing a provision that allowed for the reduction of the grant. [Delegate Luedtke/Senator King](#) (Support)

**HB 247 - Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)** - Requiring that a public school student in elementary school be provided a daily program of physical activity totaling at least 150 minutes of physical activity each week, including at least 90 minutes of physical education; requiring that the program of physical activity for a specified category of student be consistent with a specified plan for the student; requiring public elementary schools to designate a physical activity leadership team to plan and coordinate specified activities; etc. [Delegate Walker](#) (Oppose)

**HB 248 - State Board of Education - Financial Literacy Curriculum - Graduation Requirement** - Requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester-long course in financial literacy; requiring each county board of education to implement the financial literacy curriculum content developed by the State Board in every high school in the county; and requiring students to complete a course in financial literacy in order to graduate from high school. [Delegate Walker](#) (Oppose)

**HB 252/SB 284 - Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program - Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week – Occurrence** - Increasing the occurrence of a promotional event established under the Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture to advocate State agriculture and farm products to children through school meal and classroom programs; and requiring the event to be held once in the fall and once in the spring. [Delegate Waldstreicher/Senator Raskin](#) (Oppose)

**HB 298 - Education - Student Data Privacy Act of 2015** - Requiring specified operators of specified Internet sites, services, and applications to protect PreK-12 student information from unauthorized access, implement and maintain specified security procedures and practices, and delete specified student information under specified circumstances; prohibiting specified operators from engaging in specified activities with respect to specified sites, services, and applications relating to targeted advertising; etc. [Delegate Kaiser](#) (Support)

**HB 342 - Special Education - Related Services Providers - Consortium** - Requiring the State Department of Education to establish a consortium of qualified substitute related services providers who may assist in delivering specified services in the absence of the regular related services provider. [Delegate Luedtke](#) (Oppose)

**[HB 344](#) - Education - Due Process Hearings for Children With Disabilities - Burden of Proof** - Requiring specified public agencies to bear a specified burden of proof in due process hearings that are held to resolve a dispute relating to the provision of a free appropriate public education; providing a specified exception for a parent or guardian seeking tuition reimbursement for a unilateral placement; and establishing that a specified provision of law is not intended to change specified record-keeping requirements or what constitutes a free appropriate public education under federal or State law. [Delegate Washington, A.](#) (Oppose)

**[HB 389](#) - Education - Beginning of School Year - After Labor Day** - Prohibiting public schools and publicly funded prekindergarten programs from opening for pupil attendance prior to the day after Labor Day. [Delegate Healey](#) (Oppose)

**[SB 228](#) - Supplemental Public School Construction Matching Fund Program** - Establishing the Supplemental Public School Construction Matching Fund Program; providing for the purpose of the Program and requiring the Department of Budget and Management to administer the Program; establishing requirements a county must meet to be eligible for the Program; requiring the Department to provide to each county that is eligible for the Program up to \$20,000,000 of State funding each fiscal year to be used to fund the cost of public school construction projects; etc. [Senator King](#) (No Position)

**[SB 278](#) - Public Schools - Health and Safety - Food Transparency** - Requiring specified local school systems to create specified dining menus; requiring a specified dining menu to include specified information under specified circumstances; requiring specified local school systems to post specified information on the local school system's Web site; requiring specified public schools to provide a specified link on the public school's Web site under specified circumstances; etc. [Senator Nathan-Pulliam](#) (Oppose)

**[SB 296](#) - Public Schools - Thirsty Kids Act** - Requiring each public school to make available free, unlimited, potable drinking water for each student throughout the school day, include a reusable water bottle on the school supplies list for each student in kindergarten through grade 12, and provide specified cups for drinking water in specified locations; and requiring the State Department of Education to encourage each county board to develop a plan to promote the consumption of drinking water, the use of reusable water bottles, and weekly cleaning of water bottles. [Senator Montgomery](#) (Oppose)

**[SB 334](#) - The Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2015** - Altering, for fiscal year 2017, a definition to determine the number of students used to calculate the State compensatory education grant for schools that participate in the federal community eligibility program for school meals. [Senator Madaleno](#) (Support)

**[SB 405](#) - Maryland Education Credit** - Providing a 60% tax credit against the State income tax for business entity contributions (capped at \$200,000) made to student assistance organizations to provide as financial assistance to schools and students, with 90% required to be allocated for individual students at eligible public (40% of total funding) and nonpublic schools.(60% of total funding). Requiring the Department of Business and Economic Development to administer the tax credit; and creating a tax credit reserve fund which is not to exceed \$15 million. [Senator DeGrange](#) (Oppose)

## **Public Charter School Expansion and Improvement Act of 2015 (Oppose)**

On February 4, 2015 the Governor's delivered his State of the State address and proposed charter school reform legislation, which has not yet been introduced, but is being distributed in draft form. The Governor's bill would:

- Remove the Maryland teacher certification requirements for charter school teachers and professional staff;
- Adopt a new, increased, per pupil funding formula that would provide 98% of all federal, state and local funds, minus only the Title I allocation;
- Allow the State Board to grant a charter school a comprehensive waiver from all provisions of law and regulations applying to other public schools;
- Make the State Board of Education the chartering authorizer and employer for charter schools approved on appeal or for converted public schools;
- Make MSDE the school construction program administrator for all charter schools;
- Make charter schools eligible to participate in the state's capital improvement program; and
- Allow charter schools to grant preferences to students with special needs, and students within a specific school attendance area.

## **Local Bills of Note**

(Note: No local board requests for MABE positions on local bills to date.)

**[HB 310](#) - Baltimore City - Partially Elected School Board** - Increasing the number of members of the Baltimore City School Commissioners; requiring that three board members be elected at large by the voters of Baltimore City; altering the length of a term of the members of the board; requiring specified board members to be elected at a specified election and in accordance with specified provisions of law; providing for the staggering of the terms of specified members; etc. [Delegate Glenn](#)  
(Local)

## **Education Section of Governor Hogan's State of the State Address on Feb. 4, 2015**

### **8. Improving Education For All Maryland Children**

“Education is our top priority. In our proposed budget, we spend more money on education than ever before. We fund K-12 education at record levels and have committed over \$290 million to school construction. And this is the first time in history that any administration has provided additional supplemental funding for education through GCEI in their first year.

We have some great schools here in Maryland, but the gap between the best and the worst schools is dramatic. I believe that every child in Maryland deserves a world-class education, regardless of what neighborhood they grow up in. We must fix our under-performing schools while also giving parents and children realistic and better alternatives.

So, let's expand families' choices. Let's encourage more public charter schools to open and operate in Maryland. This month, our administration will submit legislation to strengthen Maryland's charter school law. This legislation will expand choices for families and make it easier for more public charter schools to operate in Maryland.

Our administration will also push for the enactment of the “Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers” legislation, also known as “BOAST.” It provides tax credits to those who make voluntary contributions to private or parochial schools, and it will help free up more money and resources for our students in public schools.

This legislation has been debated in these chambers for more than a decade. The Senate has already voted to support it. We need to work to convince our colleagues in the House that it is the right thing to do.”

Link to [full text of the Governor's State of the State Address \(2/4/2015\)](#)