

BILL: Senate Bill 770
TITLE: Education - Public High Schools - Agriculture Science
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: February 24, 2016
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's twenty-four local boards of education, opposes Senate Bill 770.

MABE appreciates the bill sponsor's intent that an agriculture science curriculum be offered in every school system. However, although the vast majority of school systems do so, a few school systems are not offering this specific curriculum and program. On behalf of these school systems, and all others who may at times confront legislative proposals to mandate specific curriculum or instructional programs, MABE opposes Senate Bill 770.

MABE believes that in creating the State Board and local boards of education the General Assembly has appropriately delegated the responsibility for the development of curriculum and student instructional programming, as well as professional development programming for teachers and other school employees. Therefore, MABE respectfully requests that decisions to adopt and implement specific programs of instruction, as proposed in this legislation, continue to be matters for local boards of education and the professional judgment of administrators and educators in each local school system.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 770.