

BILL: House Bill 1191
TITLE: Task Force to Study an Online Program for Paraprofessionals
Assisting Students with Autism
POSITION: SUPPORT
DATE: March 10, 2016
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's twenty-four local boards of education, supports House Bill 1191.

This bill would establish a Task Force to Study an Online Program for Paraprofessionals Assisting Students with Autism. Local boards of education have great respect and appreciation for the dedication and commitment of school principals, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, speech/language pathologists, and certainly the paraprofessionals who are working tirelessly throughout the school year to ensure that the educational needs of students qualifying for special education services are being met.

Local boards recognize the importance of providing appropriate training for paraprofessionals assisting students with autism. Therefore, MABE fully supports the mission of the task force created by this legislation to:

- Establish an overall plan to create a program to provide online training to paraprofessionals who work with students with autism;
- Investigate existing programs and current implementation practices;
- Analyze online training methods regarding supporting students with autism; and
- Make recommendations on how best to establish an online training program for paraprofessionals who work with students with autism.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 1191.