

BILL: House Bill 668
TITLE: Preschool Development Grants – Expansion Grants – Required State Funding
DATE: February 23, 2016
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all twenty-four local boards of education, supports House Bill 668.

MABE supports this legislation's proposal to require the Governor to fully fund an appropriation in the amount pledged to match the federal grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Education. MABE supported the legislation to advance Maryland's participation in the federal Preschool Development Grant Program.

MABE supported the Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014 as advancing Maryland's progress in providing access to high quality early learning opportunities for families and children throughout the State. This legislation established the Preschool Expansion Grant Program to broaden the availability of prekindergarten and school readiness services in coordination with the currently mandated public school program, Judy Centers, and private providers. The private providers are required to be state accredited and approved as partnering with a local school system under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). MABE believes that these provisions are helping to ensure that high quality instruction is delivered in a diverse array of prekindergarten settings.

For these reasons, MABE supports House Bill 668 and requests a favorable report.