

BILL: House Bill 996
TITLE: Education - Public School Holidays - Easter Monday
POSITION: SUPPORT
DATE: February 26, 2016
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, supports House Bill 996 to provide flexibility for local school systems in setting school calendars.

Local boards serve a broad constituency of professional educators, parents, students, businesses and other community groups. MABE supports preserving and protecting the rights of local communities and their respective boards of education to adopt school calendars which must reflect not only state testing schedules and currently mandated holidays, but also other important local considerations. Therefore, MABE generally opposes legislation which would restrict the school calendar, and instead supports preserving or even expanding the flexibility available to local boards of education to adopt school calendars.

In this light, MABE supports the intent of this legislation to reasonably expand local school system flexibility regarding the Monday following Easter. Importantly, the bill in no way constrains a local school system's prerogative to maintain this traditional school holiday.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 996.