

**BILL:** Senate Bill 1150  
**TITLE:** Primary and Secondary Education - Computer Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**DATE:** March 16, 2016  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 1150.

Local boards appreciate the bill's intention to address the issue of computer health and safety in the workplace and school setting. However, MABE does not believe legislation is needed to mandate the adoption of state or local policies in this area.

MABE believes that the women and men who work for the public school system are the key to educating our young people. Local boards of education and superintendents work to ensure that the salaries, benefits, and working conditions of all school employees are conducive to recruiting and retaining the most highly qualified and effective teachers and staff possible. Consistent with the intent of this legislation, local school systems recognize the need to employ best practices in utilizing educational technology, including computer usage.

However, MABE generally opposes proposals to mandate specific school system policies and procedures as contrary to local board discretion and flexibility to make decisions in the context of a wide array of policy-making and resource allocation responsibilities. Maryland's local boards recognize and affirm that a basic premise of our nation's system of public education is that public schools should be governed locally. By retaining local decision-making authority, boards can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, community input, and academic and financial accountability.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 1150.