

**BILL:** Senate Bill 325  
**TITLE:** Juvenile Services Education - Modifications  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**DATE:** February 17, 2016  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation 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 local boards of education, opposes House Bill 325, which would substantially reform the state and local framework for funding the education programs offered within Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) facilities and administered through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Local boards of education support a robust and successful approach to ensuring continuous access to high quality learning experiences for students placed in DJS facilities. Since the passage of the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2013 (House Bill 102) local boards of education have been required to reimburse DJS for each child from the county that is placed in a detention facility for 15 or more consecutive days. The reimbursement amount is equivalent to the average amount of State and local funds spent for the public education of a nondisabled child in the county; and calculated for students who were included in a school system's annual enrollment count.

MABE and all local boards of education appreciate the need for local investment in the education of students enrolled in public school systems who, for a time, receive their education in DJS programs. Similarly, local boards recognize the importance of striking a balance between the respective contributions of the state and local governments to achieve sufficient funding to support successful educational programs in DJS facilities.

However, the transition from the current funding framework to the new one proposed in Senate Bill 325 is a very dramatic one. The magnitude of the proposed increased costs for local school systems has prompted MABE to respectfully request a deferral of enacting this legislation until a workgroup of all stakeholders including representatives from DJS, MSDE, and local school systems has met during the 2016 interim.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 325.