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**BILL:** House Bill 548  
**TITLE:** Education - Prekindergarten Student Assessment - Moratorium  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**DATE:** February 14, 2017  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means Committee  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 548.

MABE supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and assessments, in conjunction with the State Board of Education, as these entities are charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate curriculum and assessments, and are ultimately accountable for student performance. In Maryland, the General Assembly created the State Board and local boards of education and expressly delegated to these bodies the responsibility for developing curriculum and student assessments.

MABE firmly believes that policy considerations regarding student assessments should remain within the purview and decision-making authority of local boards of education and superintendents; and that this local governance role should be exercised in conjunction with the State Board of Education.

By contrast, House Bill 548 would impose a statutory moratorium on the administration of the Early Learning Assessment currently administered to prekindergarten students. In this context, MABE opposes enacting House Bill 548 because it would not preserve the role of the professional educators and student assessment program professionals at either the state or local school system levels.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 548.