

BILL: Senate Bill 667
TITLE: Education - Prekindergarten Student Assessment - Moratorium
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: March 8, 2017
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 667.

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, Senate Bill 667 would impose a statutory moratorium on the administration of the Early Learning Assessment currently administered to prekindergarten students. In this context, MABE opposes enacting Senate Bill 667 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 Senate Bill 667.