

February 16, 2018

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- **DON'T MISS MABE'S LEGISLATIVE DAY LUNCHEON this Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> in the Miller Conference Center.**
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- Bill Report & Hearing Schedule

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**MABE's Legislative Day Luncheon is Tuesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>!**

Confirmed speakers include:

- Mike Miller - President of the Senate
- Mike Busch - Speaker of the House
- J.B. Jennings - Senate Minority Leader
- Anne Kaiser - Chair of the Ways and Means Committee
- Joan Carter Conway - Chair of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
- Ed Kasemeyer - Chair of the Budget & Taxation Committee
- Adrienne Jones - Speaker Pro Tem and Chair of the Education and Econ. Dev. Subcmt. of the Appropriations Committee
- Paul Pinsky - Vice Chair of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
- Eric Luedtke - Chair of the Education Subcmt. of the Ways and Means Committee
- MABE's Event Sponsor – Senator Addie Eckardt
- And more!

**MABE Legislative Committee Meeting**

*Reminder* – MABE will be holding an hour-long Legislative Committee meeting on Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. immediately before the Legislative Day Luncheon event.

**Kirwan Commission Bill Introduced**

[House Bill 1405](#) and [Senate Bill 1092](#) have now been introduced to enact several policy initiatives aligned with the work of the [Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#).

The bill establishes new programs and makes funding recommendations for the following:

- New Teacher Recruitment Program

**Legislative Committee  
2018 Calendar**

- Feb. 20, 2018 – (10-11 before the luncheon)
- **Feb. 20, 2018 – MABE Legislative Day Luncheon (11:00-1:00)**
- Feb. 26, 2018 – Bill Status & Positions
- Mar. 12, 2018 – Bill Status & Positions
- Mar. 26, 2018 – Bill Status & Positions
- Apr. 23, 2018 – Session Summary

MABE's Legislative Committee meetings are held in the MABE office on Monday mornings, 10:00 to 12:00, unless otherwise indicated. Meeting agendas and materials are posted on the [MABE website](#).

- K-8 Literacy Grant Program
- Mandated Level Funding for Prekindergarten Grant Programs
- Concentration of Poverty Grants
- Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program
- Career and Technical Education Grant Program
- Special Education Study Extension
- Kirwan Commission Extension

[Read more ...](#)

### **Kirwan Commission Preliminary Report Released**

On February 15, the Kirwan Commission released its [Preliminary Report](#) which includes several major policy recommendations of the Commission. A press conference was held in Annapolis at which Senate President Mike Miller, House Speaker Mike Busch, Speaker Pro Tem Delegate Adrienne Jones, Senate Paul Pinsky, and Dr. William E. “Brit” Kirwan, spoke in support of the report and the commission’s work to date.

The Commission is now in the process of bearing into a workgroup for each of the five policy areas that encompass the preliminary recommendations. Working with Commission staff, consultants, and other experts, the Commission will develop greater specificity for each of the preliminary recommendations in order to “cost out” the fiscal impact of the recommendations, both individually and as a complete system. Once this process is complete, the Commission will finalize recommendations for the “adequate” funding needed for the purpose of enabling Maryland students to achieve the State’s College and Career Ready standards. These recommendations will be made in the Commission’s final report to be submitted during the 2018 interim.

[Read more ...](#)

### **Bill Calls for Constitutional Amendment Referendum on Gaming Revenue for Schools**

[House Bill 1697](#) and [Senate Bill 1122](#) have been introduced to propose an amendment to the Maryland State Constitution to convert the Education Trust Fund as a repository of gaming revenue which may be supplanted, into a source of supplemental education funding which must be included in the Governor’s annual state budgets in excess of what is otherwise mandated by school funding formulas.

The bill includes the following Constitutional Amendment language:

“Requires the Governor to include in the annual State budget, as supplemental funding for prekindergarten through grade 12 in public schools, the revenues from video lottery operation licenses and any other commercial gaming dedicated to public education in an amount above the level of State funding for education in public schools in fiscal year 2020 in the following amounts: \$125 million in fiscal year 2021; \$250 million in fiscal year 2022; \$375 million in fiscal year 2023; and 100% of commercial gaming revenues dedicated to public education in fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.”

The supplemental funding to be provided by this legislation and Constitutional Amendment may be used to:

- ensure access to public education that allows children in the state to compete in the global economy of the future;
- provide funding for high-quality early childhood education programs;
- provide opportunities for public school students to participate in career and technical education programs that lead to an identified job skill or certificate;
- allow students to obtain college credit and degrees while in high school at no cost to the students;
- support the advancement and professionalization of educators in public schools; and
- maintain, renovate, or construct public schools.

MABE looks forward to supporting this legislation toward the goal of securing meaningful increases in State funding for public schools in the first time since before the great recession. Clearly, supplemental funding provided from gaming revenue would contribute to the State's ability to launch efforts to fully fund and implement many of the recommendations being developed and costed out by the Kirwan Commission.

### **Knott Commission Report Published**

The [Knott 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Facilities Commission](#) has now issued its [Final Report](#). The Commission adopted numerous funding and policy recommendations organized around the following principals:

- First, responsibility for the design, construction, and maintenance of public school facilities is best left primarily to local school systems.
- Second, the State has a critical and appropriate role in overseeing the construction of public school facilities in the State but should, within reasonable boundaries, minimize the burden on local school systems and offer flexibility to accommodate local priorities.
- Third, the State must focus its limited resources on critical areas of need, especially in low-wealth jurisdictions including those with a higher proportion of students living in poverty and those experiencing excessive enrollment growth;
- Fourth, resource limitations at both the State and local levels mean that more needs to be done to encourage innovative strategies that either reduce capital and/or facility operating costs or use public funds to leverage private resources; and
- Finally, the entire process of designing, funding, building, and maintaining public school facilities must be fully transparent.

MABE extends much thanks to Warner Sumpter, MABE's former president and Somerset County board member, for his years of dedicated service as MABE's representative on the Knott Commission. MABE encourages board members and all those interested to read the brief but recommendation-packed [Final Report](#) of the Knott Commission. MABE anticipates and will be reporting on legislation to implement the Knott Commission recommendations.

### **Bill Rejected to Delay Mandated Earned Sick Leave Law**

On February 13, MABE testified in the House Economic Matters Committee in support of [SB 304](#), the bill introduced to extend the date on which enforcement would begin for the Healthy Working Families Act.

MABE took the opportunity to continue to advocate for a reasonable extension of the start date for HB 1 and the significant change in the way local school systems may be required to calculate and compensate employees for earned sick and safe leave.

The House Economic Matters Committee has now voted unfavorable on the bill. To be clear, this ensures that the effective date of February 11, 2018 will not be delayed by legislation enacted in the 2018 session.

### **MABE Opposed Bill to Mandate ESSA Plan Changes**

On February 7, MABE testified against [SB 301](#), the “Protect Our Students Act of 2018”. Local boards of education are deeply concerned that this bill, if enacted, would rewrite significant parts of the 2017 Protect Our Schools Act, and require corresponding changes in the now federally approved State Plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). MABE believes the Protect Our Schools Act of 2017 set reasonable guidelines for how Maryland measures student growth and school improvement under ESSA; and how the State Board can and should respond with resources to support improvements.

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee has now voted unfavorable on SB 301.

[Read more ...](#)

### **MABE Opposes Bill to Expand Concussion Policies**

On February 15, MABE testified in opposition to [HB 552](#) because it would impose a new burden on local school systems to education not only our own staff but also persons involved in youth sports programs using school property. MABE stressed that school systems have been training school staff since the 2011 law was enacted with MABE’s support. MABE believes this bill would place an undue burden on school systems to convert our in house training programs into much broader public education programs and to establish fee-based training programs for non-school employees.

[Read more ...](#)

### **MABE Supports Bill to Develop School Health Guidelines on Sickle Cell Disease**

On February 15, MABE testified in support, with the bill sponsor’s amendments, of [HB 622](#). MABE had already submitted testimony supporting [SB 161](#) with amendments; and this bill is now passing the Senate. MABE greatly appreciates the advocacy and expertise of the Maryland Nurses Association in crafting amendments to align this legislation and school health initiative with the successful approach developed in 2016 regarding school health guidelines for students with diabetes.

[Read more...](#)

### **MABE Supports Bill to Expand Free School Meals**

On February 8, MABE testified in support of [HB 315](#), the school breakfast and lunch bill entitled the “Maryland Cares for Kids Act”. MABE supports this bill to invest just under \$4 million per year to make the State responsible for the student share of the costs of (1) reduced-price breakfasts provided under the federal School Breakfast Program and (2) reduced-price lunches provided under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). MABE looks forward to supporting the Senate version of the bill, [SB 740](#), on March 7.

[Read more...](#)

## MABE Bill Tracking Report & Testimony

During the 2018 session, as bills are introduced and hearings are scheduled, MABE provides a regularly updated bill [hearing schedule](#), [bill tracking report](#), and [all bill testimony](#).

### Hearing Schedule Highlights (Link to full bill [hearing schedule](#))

Bill Number	Title	Hearing	MABE Position
HB 814	Workers' Compensation - Students in Unpaid Work-Based Learning Experiences	Economic Matters Hearing 2/20 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB 517	Career Apprenticeship Investment Act	Finance Hearing 2/20 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
HB 1226	Career Apprenticeship Investment Act	Appropriations Hearing 2/20 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
HB 1098	Career and Technology Education and Workforce Investment Act	Appropriations Hearing 2/20 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB 725	Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation - Civil Relief and School Response	Judicial Proceedings Hearing 2/20 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB 469	Public Health - School Buildings - Minimum Health Standards (Healthy Schools Program)	Budget & Taxation Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 570	Vision Disorders - Requirements for Student Screening - Revisions	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 1060	Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition	Judicial Proceedings Hearing 2/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
HB 493	Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs - Research-Based Reading Instruction	Ways and Means Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 910	Education - Students With Reading Difficulties - Screenings and Interventions	Ways and Means Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 679	Public Schools - School Year - Completion Date	Ways and Means Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB 788	Public Information Act - Revisions	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
HB 1084	Calvert County - County Superintendent of Schools - Postemployment Compensation and Benefits	Ways and Means Hearing 2/23 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose

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