

February 9, 2018

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MABE Supports Bill to Delay Mandated Earned Sick Leave

On January 24, MABE testified in support of [SB 304](#), the bill introduced to extend the date on which enforcement would begin for HB 1, the Healthy Working Families Act. On February 5, the bill received a vote of approval with amendments, in the Senate Finance Committee and was passed by the full Senate by a vote of 29-17 on February 7. The amendment, one of two requested by MABE, would extend the implementation date for the Act to July 1, 2018.

MABE joined the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and others to request an amendment to Senate Bill 304 to align the new law's requirements with the beginning of the FY 2019 fiscal year. To determine the eligibility of part-time employees, such as substitute teachers, school systems would have to adopt new policies and absorb the administrative expenses associated with recordkeeping, documentation, and notification requirements. This amendment would avoid the imposition of administrative costs associated with reforming personnel systems and new sick and safe leave benefit expenditures arising during the current FY 2018 budget year.

MABE's testimony also requested an amendment to treat daily, on-call as-needed, employees in the public school setting in the same manner as daily on-call as-needed employees in the health and human industries. A section of the Labor and Employment Article, as amended by the Healthy Working Families Act (House Bill 1, Chapter 1 of 2018), already exempts daily substitute employees, but only in 'a health or human services industry.' MABE believes a logical extension of this exemption would be to similarly exclude daily employees in local school systems.

This exemption would only be for those school employees who: are called to work on an as-needed basis, can reject or accept the shift offered, and are not guaranteed to be called on to work. Again, these conditions are already in the law for health or human service industry employees. This amendment would avoid the scenario that a school system calling on a substitute teacher or bus driver to work on any given day could be informed that the part-time employee is instead taking compensated sick leave. The school system would then have to incur that expense, continue to seek a substitute who is available, and calculate earned sick leave for that "substitute for a substitute" under the law.

**Legislative Committee
2018 Calendar**

- Feb. 12, 2018 – Bill Status & Positions
- Feb. 20, 2018 – (10-11 before the luncheon)
- **Feb. 20, 2018 – MABE Legislative Day Luncheon**
- 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](#).

The House Economic Matters Committee has scheduled a hearing on SB 304 on February 13. MABE looks forward to 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.

[Read more...](#)

MABE Opposes 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.

A major thrust of ESSA was to move away from the failed model of the No Child Left Behind Act which focused on reading and math scores at the expense of a well-rounded curriculum. NCLB also failed to give credit for student growth. These are federal changes that were supported by a broad national coalition including the National School Boards Association – changes which Maryland should uphold in our ESSA accountability plan.

MSDE and the State Board of Education have spent the past year carefully crafting the State’s ESSA Plan to align with the Protect Our Schools Act. Our State ESSA Plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education on January 17, 2018. MABE requested an unfavorable report on SB 301 and requested that Maryland’s State accountability system for student and school performance should be allowed to move forward in accordance with the federally approved plan without undue interference from legislation in 2018 to change the rules midstream.

[Read more...](#)

MABE Opposes Investigator General Bill

On February 7, MABE testified against [SB 302](#), the “Accountability in Education Act of 2018”. The bill would establish a new education monitoring unit and an investigator general within the state government to investigate, analyze, and report on upholding of teacher, student, and parent civil rights; on fraud, abuse, and waste regarding public funds and property; on child abuse, neglect and safety; and on a range of specified matters relating to public schools and public school facilities. The unit must also establish and publicize an anonymous electronic tip program.

MABE’s testimony focused on the array of accountability measures currently applicable to school system actions, policies and procedures. Local school systems are held accountable for sound financial management through multiple independent audits of state and federal programs; school system compliance with state and federal special education laws and regulations is investigated and enforced by attorneys within MSDE; significant school construction or renovation project may not proceed without a rigorous review and approval process overseen by the Public School Construction Program; local board decisions are appealable to the State Board; and the State Superintendent is already empowered to oversee local compliance with state education laws.

MABE emphasized our support for strong accountability for school systems, both in terms of academic success for students and sound management of school finances and facilities. MABE assured the

committee that each local board places an extraordinarily high priority on investing the resources provided by taxpayers through federal, state and local funding allocations; investments in professional educators, administrators, and programs and services, and maintaining school facilities as safe and secure teaching and learning environments.

In light of the comprehensive scope of meaningful accountability assurances already in place, MABE requested an unfavorable report on SB 302.

[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 makes 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 recognizes the importance of developing healthy school environments, which includes providing high quality health and physical education programs as well as meeting the nutritional needs of students through school breakfasts, lunches, afterschool meals, and vending machine policies. Local boards support this legislation because it would provide additional state funding to ensure a universally free school meal program for more students. On February 8, MABE joined advocates for ending childhood hunger and promoting the health and learning of students in strong support for this legislation.

The funding provided by this legislation would address the problem that many low-income students are not able to participate in the school meal programs because their household income is too high to qualify for free meals, yet too low to afford the reduced-price school meal co-pays. As a result, reduced-price eligible students are more likely to incur go without the regular meals they need; and 26% less likely to eat school meals compared to students that qualify for free school meals.

[Read more...](#)

MABE Opposes Mandatory Curriculum and Graduation Requirement on Law Enforcement Interaction

On February 14, MABE will testify in opposition to [SB 508](#), a bill to require the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content, to be included in a course required for graduation, relating to the proper interaction between individuals and law enforcement officers.

This legislation would stipulate the content of the curriculum for the new course required for graduation to include:

- the duties, responsibilities, and roles of law enforcement officers;
- the rights of individuals when interacting with law enforcement officers;
- the proper behavior for individuals and law enforcement officers during interactions between individuals and law enforcement officers;
- laws pertaining to the questioning and detention of individuals by law enforcement officers, including information about: 1. when an individual may be required to display proof of the individual's identity to a law enforcement officer; and 2. potential consequences for an individual

or a law enforcement officer who fails to comply with laws pertaining to questioning and detention; and

- the process and procedure for filing a complaint against or a compliment about a law enforcement officer.

MABE consistently opposes new stand-alone graduation requirements, and respectfully requests that the General Assembly defer to the State Board and local boards to exercise their role and responsibility to craft content standards and state and local policy on student assessments and graduation requirements.

MABE Bill Tracking Report & Testimony

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

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

Bill Number	Title	Hearing	MABE Position
SB 304	Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Delay of Effective Date	Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m. Economic Matters	Support
SB 483	Public Schools - Sprinkler Systems - Required	Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m. EHEA	Oppose
HB 193	High School Diploma by Examination - Eligibility Requirements - Exemption	Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m. Economic Matters	Support
SB 467	Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Period for Back-to-School Shopping - School Supplies	Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m. B&T	Support
SB 402	Education - Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum - Boundaries and Consent	Hearing 2/14 at 2:00 p.m. EHEA	Hold
SB 477	Public Information Act - Required Denials - Physical Addresses, E-Mail Addresses, and Telephone Numbers	Hearing 2/14 at 2:00 p.m. EHEA	Support
SB 479	High School Credit for College Courses Act of 2018	Hearing 2/14 at 2:00 p.m. EHEA	Oppose
SB 508	Interaction With Law Enforcement Officers - Development and Implementation of Curriculum Content	Hearing 2/14 at 2:00 p.m. EHEA	Oppose
HB 103	Education - County Boards of Education - Removal of County Superintendents	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Oppose
HB 251	Education - Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum - Boundaries and Consent	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Hold
HB 350	Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide (ACCESS) Act of 2018	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Support w/Amendments
HB 442	Education - Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Instruction in Public Schools	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Support w/Amendments
HB 544	Public and Nonpublic Schools - Classwork and Assessment Involving Live and Dead Animals - Student Choice Policy	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Oppose
HB 552	Youth Sports Programs - Concussion Risk and Management Training - Requirements	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Oppose
HB 553	County Boards of Education - Length of School Year - Adjustments	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Support
HB 617	Education - Assessments - Administration by Public School Employees	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Oppose

HB 622	Public and Nonpublic Schools - Student Sickle Cell Disease Management Programs	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Support w/Amendments
HB 623	Education - Student Use of Backpacks - Assessment and Reduction of Health Effects	Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. W&M	Oppose

Budget Hearings	House Hearing	Senate Hearing
MSDE Aid to Education	2/28/2018 - 1:00 p.m.	3/1/2018 - 1:00 p.m.
Education – Public School Construction	3/19/2018 - 4:00 p.m.	3/12/2018 - 3:00 p.m.

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