

March 9, 2018

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**Legislative Committee
2018 Calendar**

- 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](http://MABE.org).

Governor's Education Trust Fund Bill & School Safety Bill

The Governor [announced on February 14](#) that he would introduce "The Commitment to Education Act of 2018" in order to: "increase education spending by more than \$4.4 billion over the next decade by phasing in casino revenues from the Education Trust Fund over the next four years. The legislation also dedicates the first 20 percent of these revenues to school construction starting immediately, which will add an additional \$1 billion over the decade."

The [Governor announced on February 28](#) that he would be introducing emergency legislation to provide \$125 Million for school safety enhancements, plus \$50 million in annual grants. In addition, the legislation would create statewide standards for school safety planning.

On March 7, The Governor introduced these two major pieces of legislation: the Commitment to Education Act and the Safe Schools Act of 2018.

The [Commitment to Education Act \(HB 1815/SB 1258\)](#) is the Governor's proposal to phase in the conversion of the \$500M Education Trust Fund into supplemental funding for school system operating and capital costs.

- The legislation would begin to mandate shifts of Education Trust Fund revenues in FY 2020 to fund school safety capital cost grants (\$125M), a safe schools fund to fund planning and programs (\$50M), and direct aid to local school systems (\$25M).
- In FY 2021, the additional direct aid number grows significantly (\$150M), and in addition to the safe schools grants (\$50M) the bill would start to provide PAYGO funding for school construction (\$100M).
- By FY 2023, safe schools grants would remain at \$50M, and PAYGO for school construction would remain at \$100M, but direct aid to school systems would increase to \$350M.
- Provide that the percentages of the Education Trust Fund which shall be used to supplement, not supplant, funding for programs and formulas established under the Education Article will increase from 40% in FY 2020 to 100% in FY 2023 and thereafter.

The [Safe Schools Act \(HB 1816/SB 1257\)](#) would establish the Safe Schools Fund, which would provide grants to local boards for the implementation of approved emergency safety plans and other safety

improvements. This is the operating cost grant fund designated to receive the \$50M annually from the Commitment to Education Act. In addition, the Safe Schools Act would:

- Add members to the governing board of the Maryland Center for School Safety.
- Increase the mandated appropriation for the Center from \$500K to \$3M.
- Require each board to employ a designated security administrator, certified by the Safety Center, and responsible for ensuring the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on school property and at school-sponsored events.
- Require school resource officers to be certified by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission using a curriculum developed by the Safety Center.
- Require local boards to prepare school emergency plans for review, comment, and suggested amendments by the Safety Center; and requiring State Board of Education approval, amendment, or rejection of the plans.
- Require the State Board to adopt regulations governing contents of school emergency plans and the process for safety assessments of schools.
- Require that threat assessment teams be formed to provide guidance to students, parents and staff and implement local board policies, in accordance with state regulations adopted by the State Board.
- Provide that local board records pertaining to school emergency plans and safety assessments are not subject to inspection under the Public Information Act.

In addition, the [Governor announced](#) that he was submitting a [supplemental budget](#) request to the legislature to provide \$5 million to enhance safety in Maryland's public schools to enable the Maryland Center for School Safety to hire analysts and social media trackers, allocate staff in more regions of the state, and assist schools with conducting the mandated safety assessments. The proposal includes \$2.5 million in additional funding for the Center for School Safety, and \$2.5 million for local school systems to conduct mandatory safety assessments.

“Lock Box” Education Trust Fund Bill Heard

On March 8, the Appropriations Committee hearing was held on [House Bill 1697](#), entitled “Education - Commercial Gaming Revenues - Constitutional Amendment.” [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 supports this legislation toward the goal of securing meaningful increases in State funding for public schools in the first time since before the great recession. The supplemental funding provided from gaming revenue would contribute to the State's ability to launch efforts to fully fund and implement of many of the recommendations being developed and costed out by the Kirwan Commission. [Read more ...](#)

Kirwan Commission Bill Hearings Held

On March 7, MABE joined other education advocates in supporting the passage of [House Bill 1415](#) and [Senate Bill 1092](#), the legislation to implement several recommendations of the [Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#). MABE's former president Joy Schaefer, who represents MABE on the Kirwan Commission, delivered [testimony](#) in support of the legislation on the same day in both the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

As a precursor to the Kirwan Commission's final report and comprehensive reforms and enhancements to Maryland's public school finance system, this bill would establish a comprehensive teacher recruitment and outreach program; a K-8 literacy grant program; a learning in extended academic programs grant program; and career and technology education innovation grant program. In addition, the bill would ensure funding for current prekindergarten grant programs and the teaching fellows for Maryland scholarship program.

Much more detailed information on the work ahead for the Kirwan Commission to develop final recommendations is provided in its [Preliminary Report](#).

Knott Commission Bill Heard

On March 8, the hearing was held in the House Appropriations Committee on [House Bill 1783](#), the 21st Century School Facilities Act. MABE spoke in favor of the bill overall and emphasized that we look forward to participating in the workgroup of delegates and senators which was announced at the hearing to craft amendments to address school system concerns.

The bill does include the vast majority of the 36 recommendations in the [Knott Commission's final report](#). However, it also includes components not directly tied to Commission recommendations, and these are the source of MABE's strongest concerns with the bill. MABE's written [testimony](#) highlights several of these concerns.

Negotiating Union Access to New Employees

MABE offered testimony in opposition to [House Bill 811](#), which would create a new mandatory subject of bargaining by requiring school systems to negotiate the time, place and manner of providing the unions with access to new employee processing when new employees are advised of employment-related matters. This subject of bargaining is newly proposed because of a pending Supreme Court case that threatens all unions' ability to collect dues, or representative fees, from non-members. In anticipation of such a blow to the automatic, system-wide scope of employee generated revenue, teachers unions are promoting legislation to secure structured access to new employees to promote union membership.

The House Ways and Means Committee is considering amendments to remove the access to personal email addresses and dates of birth, and removing the provision which would allow for the negotiation of local agreements to release even more information than outlined in the bill. MABE will continue to advocate for additional amendments to improve the bill as it moves forward. [Read more...](#)

MABE Bill Tracking Report & Testimony

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

Hearing Schedule Highlights

Bill Number	Title	Hearing	MABE Position
HB 1235	Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Eligibility and Annual Appropriation	Ways and Means Hearing 3/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
HB1605	Task Force on Maryland Student Transportation Safety	Environment and Transportation Hearing 3/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB1661	Task Force to Study Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Testing Time	Ways and Means Hearing 3/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB1146	Public Schools - School Construction - Approval, Design, and Funding	Budget and Taxation Hearing 3/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 1147	Juveniles – Reportable Offenses	Judicial Proceedings Hearing 3/13 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
HB 1702	Juveniles - Reportable Offenses	Judiciary Hearing 3/14 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB 775	Education - Salaries of Noncertificated Public School Employees - Minimum Living Salaries	Finance Hearing 3/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 819	Education – Collective Bargaining – Exclusive Representative’s Access to New Employee Processing	Finance Hearing 3/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB1016	State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program - Expansion of Participating Units	Finance Hearing 3/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB1145	County Boards of Education - Leasing of School Property	Budget and Taxation Hearing 3/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB0477	Public Information Act - Required Denials - Physical Addresses, E-Mail Addresses, and Telephone Numbers	Health and Government Operations Hearing 3/21 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB0161	Public Schools - Students With Sickle Cell Disease - Guidelines	Ways and Means Hearing 3/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Support w/ Amendments
SB0043	High School Diploma by Examination - Eligibility Requirements - Exemption	Ways and Means Hearing 3/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Support

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