

BILL: House Bill 161
TITLE: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2018
DATE: March 2, 2018
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports the adoption of a State Budget that fully funds public elementary and secondary education in FY 2019. Therefore, MABE opposes the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act because it proposes to reduce funding for educational programs and services.

MABE opposes House Bill 161 because it would amend the law to remove the mandated status of several important educational programs, and thereby allow for contingent reductions in the Governor's proposed State Budget. Local boards support restoring funding for the following programs suffering funding losses under the BRFA. The Governor's proposed BRFA would:

- Repeal the mandate that the Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Pilot Program be funded at \$5 million annually;
- Repeal the mandate that the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program, which provides college readiness scholarships for low-income students, be funded at \$5 million annually;
- Repeal the mandated funding for the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program, which provides after-school and summer programs. The BRFA would remove the mandate to fund this program at \$7.5 million, and authorize only \$2.5 million for FY 2019;
- Repeal the mandate for stipends for teachers that hold National Board Certification and lowers the per individual amount for teachers in schools identified as having comprehensive needs; and
- Repeal the mandate of \$250,000 for the Robotics Grant Program under the Maryland State Department of Education.

MABE urges the General Assembly to reject the proposed loss of mandated status and corresponding cuts in the pending State Budget. This action is needed to ensure funding for these programs and to support the highest quality teaching and learning opportunities for all of Maryland's public school students.

For these reasons, MABE urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 161.