

BILL: House Bill 197
TITLE: Education - State Reimbursement for County Board Payments for Exams for Eligible Students
DATE: February 8, 2018
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, supports House Bill 197.

MABE greatly appreciates this bill's proposal to establish a state funding source for the reimbursement of local school system costs of providing financial assistance to students taking critically important assessments. This bill would do so by first requiring the local school system to annually pay up to \$300 toward an Advanced Placement (AP), Career and Technical Education (CTE) industry certification, or International Baccalaureate (IB) exam per student who is eligible for the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHIP). The legislation would then require reimbursement of these local expenditures from a fund administered by the Maryland State Department of Education.

MABE and local boards have been closely engaged in the development and implementation of Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards and the corresponding student assessments. Maryland adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010, and then proceeded to adopt the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards and curricular framework. At the same time, the State Board decided to transition from the Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) and High School Assessments (HSAs) to new State assessments developed in conjunction with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). However, as reflected in this bill, students take additional and very important assessments to demonstrate mastery in their International Baccalaureate courses, Advanced Placement courses, and tests for certification in a wide array of professional fields.

The General Assembly has also been actively engaged in guiding and monitoring the transition of the State's school and student performance accountability system. In 2013, Senate Bill 740, the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 was enacted to establish a number of requirements regarding student assessments and courses aimed at increasing college and career readiness. As local school systems continue to expand opportunities for students to pursue and master academic and career related knowledge and skills, providing equitable access to the assessments related to this work must be a priority. MABE believes that passage of this bill will make a significant contribution toward the State's investment in the preparation of Maryland's students for successful transitions to college and career.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 197.