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**BILL:** House Bill 557  
**TITLE:** Primary and Secondary Education - Education Trust Fund - Use of Fund  
**DATE:** March 8, 2018  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations 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 the intent of House Bill 557 and the General Assembly's efforts to more clearly establish the Education Trust Fund as a source of supplemental funding for public education programs throughout Maryland.

House Bill 557 would require that the gaming revenue allocated to the Education Trust Fund be converted into supplemental state funding to support improvements in Maryland's public schools. In 2018, MABE is strongly supporting legislation to establish, in the Maryland Constitution, the obligation to do so.

Again, MABE strongly supports the thrust of this legislation to secure meaningful increases in State funding for public schools for 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 on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

For these reasons, MABE supports House Bill 557.