

BILL: House Bill 940
TITLE: High School Credit for College Courses Act of 2018
DATE: March 1, 2018
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, opposes House Bill 940.

MABE appreciates the bill's intent to facilitate the ability of high school students to receive college credit for courses taken in post-secondary institutions. However, the bill would require, rather than allow, school systems do grant such credit; and instead place the post-secondary institution in the primary position of determining whether high school credit equivalence standard has been met. In this way, House Bill 940 would establish a high school graduation policy without recognizing the appropriate role of the local school system in which the student is enrolled.

MABE opposes any efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum and instructional matters, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board. Therefore, MABE's opposition to this bill does not rest on an evaluation of the merits of whether high school credit should, or should not, be granted for college courses. Rather, MABE opposes the proposal to impose the state policy that all school systems award full credit for these courses based on the determination of a post-secondary institution in conjunction with the Maryland State Department of Education.

In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for curriculum and assessments. The State Board establishes State standards and statewide minimum graduation requirements; the local boards implement locally-developed curriculum to ensure that students are prepared to meet the state and local graduation requirements. State and local assessment programs ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable for their work. In this context, MABE continues to support local decision-making authority in developing policies and practices on the type of course credit issue raised by this legislation.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 940.