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BILL: Senate Bill 304
TITLE: Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Delay of Effective Date
DATE: February 13, 2018
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) strongly supports Senate Bill 304, to provide a reasonable delay of the effective date of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act.

MABE, on behalf of all local boards of education, supports passage of this bill in order to align the new law's requirements with the beginning of the FY 2019 fiscal year. To determine the eligibility of school system employees, each of the Maryland's 24 local school systems have to adopt new policies and absorb the administrative expenses associated with recordkeeping, documentation, and notification requirements.

Most importantly, the February 11, 2018 effective date of the Healthy Working Families Act requires immediate actions with fiscal impacts in the current FY 2018 fiscal year; impacts not funded when school budgets were negotiated and approved between school systems and local governments in 2017. This legislation would allow school systems to implement the administrative changes in our human resources departments necessary to manage employee timekeeping in preparation for the new law; but alleviate the imposition of new sick and safe leave benefit expenditures arising during the current FY 2018 budget year.

For these reasons, MABE urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 304.