

BILL: Senate Bill 479
TITLE: High School Credit for College Courses Act of 2018
DATE: February 14, 2018
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 479.

MABE appreciates the bill's intent to ensure that students who complete courses for college while enrolled in a Maryland public high school receive high school credit for such courses. However, MABE is concerned that the bill places the decision-making authority to approve the high school credit. Instead, the bill would allow the institution of post-secondary education to make its own determination of whether their course was equivalent to the comparable high school course. While the bill would allow the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to decide whether or not to grant high school credit, the local school system itself would be provided no opportunity to make such a determination.

Generally, MABE opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, courses of instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board of Education. Exceptions to this rule are rare. In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for guiding and delivering a high quality statewide system of public education through state standards and accountability measures, and locally governed and administered curriculum, teaching, and learning.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 479.