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BILL: Senate Bill 508
TITLE: Interaction with Law Enforcement Officers - Development and Implementation of Curriculum Content
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), representing all of the state's local boards of education, opposes Senate Bill 508.

MABE appreciates the bill's intent to address the issue of proper interactions between citizens and law enforcement officers. However, MABE opposes this bill because it would do so by prescribing curriculum content and mandating a new course requirement for high school graduation. To be clear, MABE has no opposition to the bill's proposal to require the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to develop a curriculum for driver education and the driver's license examination which includes a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken by a driver during a traffic stop.

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 508.