

**BILL:** Senate Bill 562  
**TITLE:** Education - Assessments - Administration by Public School Employees  
**DATE:** February 21, 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 562 because it would prevent the assurance that the school principal's decision to assign a proctor for a state assessment is in accordance with the local school system's policy or procedures.

MABE appreciates this bill's proposal to address the difficulty schools have in administering state assessments with certified staff as proctors. However, MABE is strongly opposed to enacting state legislation to allow a school principal to unilaterally decide who is, or is not, qualified to proctor such exams.

MABE actively participated in the work of the Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools to develop recommendations regarding "how local school systems and the State can improve the process in which local, State, and federally mandated assessments are administered and used to inform instruction" (House Bill 452, 2015). In the Commission's Final Report, a recommendation related to this bill was made: "Recommendation 3.1: Loosen the restrictions on who can administer, proctor and accommodate State and locally mandated assessments. Any staff member at a school whom the principal deems capable, by integrity, skill, work time, and appropriate training, is allowed to fully proctor a State and/or local standardized test. Training as currently in existence will remain an element of the administrator, proctor, and accommodator readiness, and additional training as the school administration sees necessary will be supported."

While MABE does not endorse this recommendation, it clearly recognizes the need for a more thorough process of training and preparation of test proctors than the broad discretion provided in Senate Bill 562. And it is important to keep in mind that the "training as currently in existence" refers to the training of certified educators and administrators; not to any employee in the building selected by the principal.

Local boards firmly believe that policy considerations regarding testing methods should remain within the purview and decision-making authority of local boards of education, superintendents, and local school systems. MABE supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and assessments, in conjunction with the State Board of Education. MABE will continue to respectfully request that the State Board of Education and the General Assembly continue to adhere to the principle of locally-governed education policies and practices regarding student assessments.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 562.