

BILL: Senate Bill 904
TITLE: Public Schools – Social Media Use by Educators
DATE: March 29, 2018
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) appreciates the intent of this legislation to promote the adoption of sound policies regarding the acceptable use of technology and social media by educators in Maryland’s public schools.

However, MABE does not support a key provision of Senate Bill 904 which would require the State Board of Education to develop a state model policy for local boards to use in drafting local policies on the use of social media by educators. To be clear, MABE supports the development and adoption of local board policies in this area; but opposes the need for a state model policy in light of the fact that school systems have been developing such policies for several years. MABE does not believe the investment time and staff resources required to craft a state model policy, and the restructuring of local policies based on this model, would be an efficient use of limited state and local school system resources.

Amendments to adopt state guidelines and requirements for local board policies without mandating that local policies be based on a state model policy.

- On page 1, in line 3, and throughout the bill, strike “model” and “MODEL”.
- On page 2, in line 9, strike “THE STATE BOARD” and replace with “EACH LOCAL BOARD”.
- On page 2 strike “BASED ON THE STATE BOARD’S MODEL POLICY”.
- On page 3, strike beginning with the colon in line 20 through “(2)” in line 23.
- On page 3, strike beginning with “FOR” in line 24 through “VOLUNTEERS” in line 25; and replace with “IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL BOARD POLICY”.
- On page 3, strike beginning with “(II)” in line 29 through line 1 on page 4.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 904, with the amendments described above.