

BILL: House Bill 631
TITLE: High School Graduation Requirements - Student Service - Fire-Fighting Training and Volunteer Hours
DATE: February 21, 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports House Bill 631.

Under current State regulations (COMAR 13A.03.02.05), to be eligible to graduate, students must complete one of the following:

- 75 hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the local school system, may begin during the middle grades; or
- A locally designed program in student service that has been approved by the State Superintendent of Schools.

House Bill 631 would stipulate that “fire-fighting training and volunteer hours” may be used to satisfy the student service requirement. Local boards of education recognize that many fire departments and emergency medical services departments throughout the State of Maryland offer junior fire-fighting/EMS, cadet and explorer programs to volunteers who are under 18 years old. Therefore, MABE believes that this legislation and the regulation cited above can work in concert to help ensure that student service credits are accessible for students meeting locally developed standards for recognized fire-fighting training and services.

For these reasons, MABE requests that the committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 631.