

BILL: Senate Bill 856
TITLE: Juvenile Justice Reform Council
DATE: February 20, 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 856, and the need to establish the proposed Juvenile Justice Reform Council. MABE requests an amendment to add a representative of MABE to the roster of members to be appointed by the Governor.

The Council will be comprised members of the General Assembly and state agency secretaries, as well as individuals representatives local law enforcement, youth service bureaus, and the State's Attorneys Association, among others. MABE respectfully requests an amendment, on page 2 after line 16, to include on the Council "(vii) a representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, appointed by the President of the association;"

MABE appreciates that the Council is charged with convening an advisory stakeholder group. However, MABE requests that our representative sits on the Council to have a fully vested voice in its policy deliberations and decisions.

MABE recognizes the significant concerns regarding the need for juvenile justice reforms, as the legislature, State Board of Education, and local boards of education continue to pursue innovative and successful approaches to student discipline, restorative practices, and providing high quality educational services to students within DJS facilities and administered through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). In this light, MABE looks forward to participating in the work of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 856, with the amendment described above.