

BILL: Senate Bill 934
TITLE: Election Law - Voter Registration - High Schools
DATE: March 14, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) strongly opposes Senate Bill 934 as introduced.

The bill would require the State Board of Elections to designate public and private high schools as voter registration entities where designated school staff and enrolled students would distribute and accept voter registration applications. The bill would mandate that such activities take place at least twice per school year, and require the distribution of a voter registration applications to each student, based on their age, and each school employee. The bill, as introduced, would further allow the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations governing the training of school personnel.

The cross-filed bill, House Bill 423, is passing in the House with amendments that address several of MABE's concerns. However, MABE remains concerned with the scope of the bill's potential impact on school administration and instruction. As amended in the House, the basic premise of the bill remains intact, that each local board of elections would be mandated to conduct an annual voter registration drive in each public high school in the State.

For these reasons, MABE continues to request an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 934, even if amended to conform to the House bill.