



2019 Legislative Session Education Highlights

Presented by
John R. Woolums, Esq.
Director of Governmental Relations

MABE's Mission



MABE's mission is to provide members with a strong collective voice, and to support local school board governance through professional development, advocacy, and member services.

MABE Programs & Services

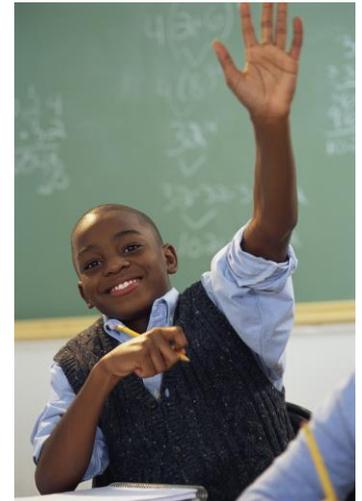
- **Professional Development** – MABE provides the skills and knowledge required for our members to become effective leaders.
- **Legal and Policy Services** – MABE provides legal assistance, including amicus briefs, and policy training and alerts.
- **Insurance Programs** – MABE manages two member owned Trusts, set up to handle Property/Casualty and Workers' Compensation Pooled Self-Insurance.
- **Advocacy** – MABE represents all 24 local boards on legislative and regulatory matters before the General Assembly, State Board, and federal government.

2019 Legislative Positions & Policy Statements

- 2019 Legislative Priorities
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- Local Funding & MOE
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- Charter Schools
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- Federal Funding & Policy
- Elected, Appointed & Hybrid Boards

MABE's 2019 Legislative Priorities

- MABE supports continued governance autonomy for local boards of education to set education policy and school budgets; and opposition to unfunded mandates; and is enhanced local school board calendar flexibility;
- Supports full State funding for Maryland's outstanding public schools; and the launch of the Kirwan Commission recommendations;
- Supports at least \$400 million in State funding for school construction and renovation projects; and
- Supports sustained local government investments in education.



Bills Passed in 2019

State Operating Budget

- FY 2020 Budget Bill
- Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2019 (BRFA)

Education Funding & Policy

- Kirwan Commission - Blueprint for Maryland's Future
- Community Schools - Established

State Capital Budget

- FY 2020 School Construction Budget

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- Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report
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- Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage (Fight for Fifteen)

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- Equal Access to Public Translator Services

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- Zero-Emission School Bus Grant Program and Fund

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- Ban on Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products

FY 2020 State Education Budget Bills

- The General Assembly approved both the FY 2020 State Budget Bill ([HB 100](#)) and the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act ([HB 1407](#)).
- The agreement reached between the House and Senate provides an additional \$255 million for public education contingent on passage of the Kirwan Commission's Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation ([SB 1030](#)), which passed in the final days of session, but is not yet signed into law.

FY 2020 State Education Budget

State Aid for Public Education FY 2019 to FY 2020

<u>Program</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Foundation Program	\$3,056,189	\$3,140,367
Net Taxable Income Grant	62,524	65,301
Tax Increment Financing Grant ¹	535	3,251
Geographic Cost of Education Index	141,574	145,450
Supplemental Grant	46,620	46,620
Foundation Special Grant	12,956	12,237
Declining Enrollment Supplemental Grant	18,664	18,890
Compensatory Education Program	1,308,336	1,330,429
Special Education Program	290,813	303,250
Limited English Proficiency	288,041	311,080
Guaranteed Tax Base	48,170	43,685
Student Transportation	282,585	303,045
Nonpublic Special Education	123,500	121,470
Prekindergarten Expansion	11,644	26,644
Prekindergarten Supplemental Grant	16,039	21,131
School Safety Grants	13,100	10,600
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future ²	0	251,641
Other Programs	80,305	80,930
Direct Aid Subtotal	\$5,801,594	\$6,236,020
Teachers' Retirement	\$732,921	\$767,889
Grand Total	\$6,534,515	\$7,003,909

The Kirwan Blueprint for Maryland's Future

SB 1030 – The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

- Establishes State education policy, based on the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.
- The bill provides targeted funding in FY 2020; and mandates funding increases in FY 2021 and FY 2022.
- Programs include: Full-Day Prekindergarten Funding, Teacher Salary Grants, Concentration of Poverty Grants, Special Education Funding, Teacher Collaborative Grants, Mental Health Coordinator Funding, and Supplemental Instruction Grants.

Kirwan Blueprint Funding for FY 2020

Funding Restricted for The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan Commission) in the Fiscal 2020 Budget and the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2019 (\$ in Millions)

Contingent on Enactment of SB 1030 or HB 1413 – The Blueprint for Maryland's Future and Release by the Governor:

Full-day Prekindergarten for Four-year-olds	\$31.7
Special Education Grants	65.5
Concentration of Poverty School Grants (Includes MSDE Coordinator Position)	54.6
Teacher Salary Incentive Grants	75.0
Transitional Supplemental Instruction Grants	23.0
Mental Health Coordinators for Each Local School System	2.0
Teacher Collaboratives	2.5
Outreach and Training	0.3
MSDE IT System	0.5
Total	\$255.0

* \$134.5 million may be released at the Governor's discretion.

Kirwan Blueprint (SB 1030)

Prekindergarten Funding in Kirwan

- Provides an additional \$31.7 million in FY 2020, benefitting 18 school systems.
- Expands per pupil funding eligibility based on every 4-year-old in full-day prekindergarten as of September 30 of each year, regardless of whether full-day services are available to all 4-year-olds in the county's prekindergarten program.

PreK Funding Overall

- Beginning in FY 2020, mandatory annual State funding increases to \$26.6 million, resulting in a \$15 million increase over the prior year.
- Baltimore City, Garrett, Kent, and Somerset counties receive \$21.1 million in supplemental grants.

The Teacher Salary Incentive Grant Program

- Provides grants to increase teacher salaries to improve recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers.
- In each of FY 2020 and 2021, the State must distribute \$75 million to eligible counties for the grants, including specified allocations for each county.
- A local board receives a grant if it provides an average salary increase for teachers of at least 3% in FY 2020.
- “Teacher” includes any certificated school system personnel who are not administrators and who, as of April 1, 2019, are in the teachers bargaining unit.

Kirwan Blueprint (SB 1030)

Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program

- Provides grants to public schools in which at least 80% of the students eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals (FRPM) to support community schools with coordinated wrap-around services.
- For both FY 2020 and 2021, the State must distribute a grant to each local school system equal to \$248,833 for each eligible school; each school must employ one community school coordinator and provide full-time coverage by at least one professional health care practitioner.
- Statewide grant totals are estimated at \$54.5 million in FY 2020 and \$58.9 million in FY 2021.
- [SB 661](#), “Primary and Secondary Education - Community Schools – Established” also passed to define the purpose and requirements of a community school.

Special Education Funding

- Provides, in both FY 2020 and 2021, an additional \$65.5 million for special education services with students with disabilities, with specified allocations to each local school system.
- If any of this funding is not needed to fully implement individualized education programs (IEPs) and 504 plans for students with disabilities, each local board of education must use the remaining funding to implement other recommendations made in the Kirwan Commission's January 2019 Interim Report.

Kirwan Blueprint (SB 1030)

Transitional Supplemental Instruction (TSI) Funding

- Providing \$23 million in FY 2020 and 2021 for the provision of TSI for struggling learners, including additional academic supports using evidence-based programs and strategies that meet the expectations of strong or moderate evidence as defined in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- TSI includes one-on-one and small-group tutoring with a certified teacher, a teaching assistant, or any other trained professional; cross-age peer tutoring; and screening, identifying, and addressing literacy deficits.
- Struggling learners are students who perform below grade level in English/language arts or reading in kindergarten through grade 3.

Teacher Collaborative Grant Program

- MSDE, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), to award grants totaling \$2.5 million in each of FY 2020 and 2021, to teacher collaboratives to develop model, state-of-the-art, professional development programs for prospective and current teachers.
- A collaborative must constitute a partnership of at least one local board, one teacher preparation program, and one exclusive employee representative.

Inspector General

- Establishes the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education, contingent on the Governor releasing FY 2020 funding to implement the bill.
- The IG is responsible for examining local boards of education, local school systems, and public schools; nonpublic schools that receive State funds; MSDE; and the Interagency Commission on School Construction.
- The IG's office may investigate complaints of fraud, waste, and abuse involving the use of public funds; violations of the civil rights of students and employees; and other violations of law.

State Training on the Blueprint

- Requires the State to distribute at least \$250,000 to MSDE in FY 2020 and 2021 to, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, enter into agreements, including through third-party contracts, to provide outreach and educational materials and deliver appropriate training to elected officials, superintendents, members of boards of education, teachers and school principals, parents, students, and members of the public on the vision, skills, and knowledge needed to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

School System Reports on Kirwan Funding Allocations

- By December 1, 2019 and 2020 each local board must report on how the funds distributed in accordance with this Act were allocated, including funds allocated at the school level, to begin to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the policy recommendations of the Commission identified in its January 2019 Interim Report.

Next Steps

- The Commission's term has been extended to December 31, 2019, with a final report due by December 1, 2019.
- “The Commission will resume its work after the 2019 legislative session and task a small group to work over the summer to review and develop formula recommendations to distribute the costs of implementing the policy recommendations between the State and local governments. These recommendations will be considered by the full Commission in fall 2019.”

School Construction Funding

- **HB 101/SB 126 - Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2019**
- Funds the Public School Construction Program to construct public school buildings and public school capital improvements.
- Major programs (including operating budget amounts) include: IAC Public School Construction Program, \$251.8 million; Supplemental Grant Program, \$68.2 million; Healthy School Facility Fund, \$30 million; School Safety Grants, \$10 million; and Aging Schools Program, \$6.1 million.
- An additional \$127 million may be provided per the Governor's discretion; \$90 million from the Rainy Day Fund, and \$30 million from the Dedicated Purpose Account.

School Construction Funding

Budgeted Public School Construction Funding for FY 2020	
Public School Construction Program	\$251.8 million
Supplemental Grant Program	\$68.2 million
Healthy School Facility Fund	\$30 million
Public School Safety Improvement Grants	\$10 million
Aging Schools Program	\$6.1 million
Public School Construction Program – Revenue Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund)*	\$90 million*
Public School Construction Program – Dedicated Purpose Account*	\$37 million*
Total	\$493.1 million

* May be released at the Governor's discretion

SB 128 - The Community Control of School Calendars Act

- Requires each local board of education to set start and end dates each year for public schools in the county.
- Effectively repeals any law prohibiting a local board from beginning or ending its school year before or after a certain date.
- Also specifies the language to be used on sample ballots if, as is anticipated, the Act is submitted to the voters on the statewide ballot in 2020.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Board/Superintendent Relations

HB 238/SB 747 - Education - Removal of County Superintendents – Procedures

- Authorizes a local board of education to remove a local superintendent of schools for the same reasons that the State Superintendent of Schools may remove a local superintendent under current law.
- Causes for removal include: Immorality; Misconduct in office; Insubordination; Incompetency; or Willful neglect of duty.
- To remove a local superintendent, the State Superintendent or local board must provide the local superintendent with the reason for removal, documentation supporting the case for removal, and the opportunity to request a hearing within 10 days before the State Superintendent or local board.
- The local superintendent may appeal the decision of the State Superintendent or the local board to the State Board of Education.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

HB 87/SB 529 - State Board of Education - Membership - Teachers and Parent

- Increases the membership of the State Board of Education from 11 to 13 regular members, totaling 14 including the student member.
- Establishes procedures for the appointment of one certified teacher and one parent of a student enrolled in a public school.
- This bill takes effect June 1, 2019.
- The Governor vetoed similar legislation passed in 2018.

Performance Audits

HB 1113/SB 640 - State Government - Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability and Maryland Program Evaluation Act

- Establishes the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPE) in the Department of Legislative Services (DLS).
- The office has similar powers to the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), which now performs fiscal audits.
- Performance audits of local school systems may analyze grading standards, graduation requirements, assessments, procurement, and equitable use of resources among the schools within the system evaluated; and identify instances of fraud, waste, and abuse.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

HB 355 - Education - County Boards of Education – Disclosures and Requirements

- As introduced, this bill would have required major revisions to local board of education ethics policies and procurement and other financial reporting requirements.
- As passed, this bill requires each school system, beginning January 1, 2020, to annually report to the Department of Budget and Management on “payees” receiving an aggregate payment of \$25,000 in the prior fiscal year.
- This bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

HB 1019 - State Board of Education - Public High School Students - Assessments and Graduation Requirements

- Establishes restrictions on assessment requirements for high school graduation adopted by the State Board of Education.
- Specifically, the State Board may only require a passing score on a standardized assessment to evaluate a student for graduation from high school after the assessment has been field-tested and piloted for at least 1 year.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

SB 734 - Education - Students with Reading Difficulties - Screenings and Interventions

- Requires, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each local board to ensure that students are screened to identify if the student is at risk for reading difficulties.
- If the screening results indicate that the student is at risk of reading difficulties, schools must provide supplemental reading instruction, and provide a notification letter to the student's parent.
- MSDE must develop resources for local boards every four years to support local training.
- Local boards must report annually to MSDE beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Special Education

HB 611 - Special Education - Individualized Education Programs - Timeline for Independent Educational Evaluations

- Authorizes a parent who disagrees with the educational evaluation regarding a child's individualized family service plan (IFSP), individualized education program (IEP), or special education services to request an independent educational evaluation (IEE) at public expense.
- The local school system must provide a written response approving or denying a request within 30 days.
- If approved, the written response must advise the parent of the process for arranging the evaluation at public expense. If denied, the local school system must file a due process complaint within 30 days.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water

HB 1253 - Environment - Drinking Water Outlets in School Buildings - Elevated Level of Lead and Grant Program

- Maintains the State's definition of "elevated level of lead" to mean "a lead concentration in drinking water that exceeds the standard recommended by the U.S. EPA in technical guidance."
- States that: "The General Assembly finds that any exposure to lead in drinking water is dangerous to the health and development of children. It is the intent of the General Assembly that schools work proactively to reduce the concentration of lead in drinking water outlets to a level below 5 parts per billion (ppb) and that state and federal funds be made available to schools for that purpose."
- Requires the reporting of findings of concentrations of lead above 5 ppb to State Departments of Education, Environment, and Health, and local health departments.
- Requires the Maryland Department of Environment to create a grant program to assist with remedial costs of findings above 5 ppb.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2019.

School-Based Health Center Standards

HB 47/SB 404 - State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health - Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards – Revision

- Requires MSDE and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), by August 1, 2019, to revise Maryland school-based health center (SBHC) standards to:
 - (1) repeal current requirements that SBHCs have a medical director who is a physician and that a physician consultant be available to SBHC staff to discuss clinical issues as needed; and
 - (2) authorize a licensed physician or nurse practitioner to serve as a clinical director or consultant of an SBHC.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Student Discipline Reform

HB 725 - Public Schools - Student Discipline - Restorative Approaches

- Requires local board regulations related to discipline to provide for restorative approaches and state that the primary purpose of any disciplinary measure is rehabilitative, restorative, and educational.
- Defines “restorative approaches” as a relationship-focused student discipline model that (1) is primarily proactive and preventative; (2) emphasizes building strong relationships and setting clear behavioral expectations that contribute to the school community well-being; (3) in response to behavior that violates clear behavioral expectations, focuses on accountability for any harm done by the problem behavior; and (4) addresses ways to repair the relationships affected by the problem behavior with the voluntary participation of an individual who was harmed.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Cyber Bullying

SB 103/HB 181- Criminal Law - Electronic Harassment and Bullying (Grace's Law 2.0)

- Expands the existing “cyber bullying” statute by prohibiting a person from maliciously engaging in electronic communication with intent to intimidate or harass, and cause physical injury or serious emotional distress.
- Defines “electronic communication”, “electronic conduct”, and “social media application”.
- Criminalizes electronic harassment with intent to induce a minor to commit suicide.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2019.

Student Data Privacy Council

HB 245 - Education - Student Data Privacy Council

- Establishes the Student Data Privacy Council, to study the implementation of the Student Data Privacy Act of 2015 and recommend updates.
- Chaired by the State Superintendent and staffed by MSDE.
- By December 31, 2020, the council must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly, including whether the council should be made permanent.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2019, and terminates May 31, 2021.

HB 704 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Student Data and Governing Board

- Adds juvenile delinquency records and discipline records to the types of data that are collected and analyzed by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center.
- Adds the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to the entities required to provide data sets to the MLDS and adds the Secretary of Juvenile Services to the Governing Board of the MLDS Center.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2019.

HB 1206 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Data Matching

- Establishes a framework for data transfer protocols related to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center:
 - (1) the geocoding of public school students' home addresses to the census tract and block level by each local school system; and
 - (2) the matching of specified student information to tax information by the Comptroller.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Sexual Abuse Prevention

HB 486/SB 541 - Education - Personnel Matters - Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention

- This bill sets forth a process and requirements for specific documentation regarding whether an individual has ever been disciplined for allegations of “child sexual abuse” or “sexual misconduct,” for the hiring of public school and nonpublic school employees who have direct contact with minors.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Child Abuse Reporting & Penalties

SB 568 - Crimes - Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report

- Makes it a misdemeanor for a person who is required to provide notice of suspected abuse or neglect of a child or make a written report of suspected abuse or neglect of a child under § 5-704 of the Family Law Article may not knowingly fail to provide the required notice or make the required written report if the person has actual knowledge of the abuse or neglect.
- Upon conviction, a violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years, or both.
- Applies to a failure to report child abuse or neglect that occurs during the time the child is a minor.
- This bill takes effect October 1, 2019.

School Psychologist Staffing Reports

HB 844 - Public Schools - School Psychologists - Reports

- Requires each local school system to submit an interim and final report on the current ratio of school psychologists to students in each public school.
- Reports must include strategies (including any additional State and local funding) to, by October 1, 2020: (1) have at least one school psychologist at schools with less than 700 students, and (2) for schools with 700 students or more students, have a ratio of no less than 1 school psychologist for every 700 students.
- Each local school system must submit an interim report by July 1, 2020, and a final report by December 1, 2020.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019, and terminates June 30, 2021.

Employee Classification

HB 1259 - Education - Collective Bargaining for Noncertificated Employees - Supervisory Employees and Management Personnel

- Altering the definitions of "supervisory employee" and "management personnel" by removing a provision that status as a supervisory employee and management personnel may be determined by negotiations between the school employer and employee organization.
- This bill takes effect July 1, 2019.
- Identical legislation was passed but vetoed by the Governor in 2018.

Minimum Wage Increase

HB 166/SB 280 - Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage and Enforcement (Fight for Fifteen)

- Phases in an increase in the State minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by FY 2024 and indexes it to inflation beginning July 1, 2024.
- Additionally, the Governor's proposed budget for the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) must include specified rate increases for community service providers over the funding provided in the prior year's legislative appropriation.
- This bill takes effect June 1, 2019.

HB 1144 - County Boards of Education - Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency

- Requires each local board to take reasonable steps to provide equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- Reasonable steps include: (1) provision of oral language services for LEP parents and guardians, which must be through face-to-face, in-house oral language services, if in-person contact is on a weekly or more frequent basis, and (2) translation of vital documents ordinarily provided to the public in any language spoken by any LEP population that constitutes 3% of the overall population within the county as measured by the U.S. Census.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Zero-Emission School Buses

- **HB 1255 - School Bus Transition - Zero-Emission Vehicles - Grant Program and Fund**
- Establishes the Zero-Emission Vehicle School Bus Transition Grant Program within the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to provide grants to local boards of education (and entities that contract with local boards to provide transportation) to: (1) purchase school buses that are zero-emission vehicles; (2) install electric vehicle infrastructure for charging such school buses; (3) engage in planning for a transition to using school buses that are zero-emission; and (4) fund pilot programs.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2019.

Styrofoam Ban

HB 109/SB 285 - Environment - Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products – Prohibition

- Prohibits, beginning January 1, 2020: (1) a person from selling or offering for sale in the State an “expanded polystyrene food service product” and (2) a “food service business” or school from selling or providing food in an expanded polystyrene food service product.
- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must promulgate regulations to implement the bill with waivers available to food service businesses or schools, as specified. County health departments must enforce the bill and may impose monetary penalties.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Local Bill Highlights

HB 460 - Harford County Board of Education - Elected Members - Start Date of Term - This bill alters the start date for an elected member of the Harford County Board of Education from July 1 after the member's election to the first Monday in December after the member's election. The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

HB 590 - Howard County Board of Education - Election of Members Ho. Co. 01-19 - This bill requires five members of the Howard County Board of Education to each represent one of the five councilmanic districts and to be elected by the voters of the respective district. The bill also requires two members to be elected at large by the voters of the county. The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

SB 1011 - Prince George's County - Public School Construction - Prince George's County Public - Private Partnership Fund - This bill establishes the Prince George's County Public-Private Partnership Fund (fund) to pay a public or private entity for the availability payment due under a public-private partnership (P3) agreement authorized by the bill. The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

Bills NOT Passed in 2019

- **HB 140 - Special Education - Attorney's and Expert Witness Fees and Related Costs** - This bill would have authorized a court to award reasonable expert witness fees to the parent who is the prevailing party in these hearings.
- **SB 686 - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Applicability** - This bill would have exempted from the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act an employee who is called to work by a local board of education on an as-needed basis, can reject or accept the shift offered, and is not guaranteed to be called on to work.
- **HB 727/SB 731 - Public School Construction - Maryland Stadium Authority - Supplemental Funds** - This bill would have authorized the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$2.2 billion in revenue bonds, backed by annual payments of \$125 million from the Education Trust Fund beginning in FY 2021, for public school construction projects in the State.



621 Ridgely Avenue, Suite 300
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-5414 800-841-8197
Fax: 410-841-6580

www.mabe.org

