

BILL: House Bill 515
TITLE: Public Schools - Staff Members - Report
DATE: February 14, 2020
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's boards of education, opposes House Bill 515, which would require extensive reporting requirements on school systems.

This bill would require each local board of education to submit to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) a report on the ratio of students to staff members regarding school counselors; school psychologists; social workers; occupational therapists; speech pathologists; and bilingual facilitators. These reports would be required to include the ratios of students to each of these staff members at the school level and for the school system as a whole.

MABE is supporting the passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB 1300/SB 1000), comprehensive education reform legislation which proposes to mandate an unprecedented expansion planning, reporting, and accountability requirements on local school systems. These proposed requirements extend to staffing, instruction, curriculum, and many other facets of school system governance and administration. In this context, local boards of education are respectfully requesting that the General Assembly not adopt any additional reporting requirements.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 515.