

**BILL:** House Bill 1422  
**TITLE:** Public Schools - Redistricting - Community Advisory Committees  
For Student Assignment  
**DATE:** March 4, 2020  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means Committee  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 1422.

MABE appreciates the intent of this bill to engage local community members in the process of having input as their local board of education is undertaking the challenging and often controversial task of redistricting school boundary and student attendance areas. However, MABE assures the legislature that this is already the case. No local board decision making processes, other than school closings, generate the quality or intensity of communication from parents and other community members.

Importantly, the responsibility of local boards to make the difficult decisions involved in modifying what may be longstanding school attendance boundaries is precisely that – their responsibility. By contrast, this bill would involve the local government in convening a community advisory committee to provide input on this local board decision making process – a process in which the local government has no role.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1422.