

BILL: Senate Bill 894
TITLE: County Boards of Education - Computer Science Courses
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: March 3, 2020
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, opposes Senate Bill 894, which would impose significant new reporting requirements relating to the implementation of recently enacted legislation to require computer science course offerings in all public high schools.

MABE recognizes the General Assembly's strong support for computer science education, as evidenced by legislation passed in 2018. This legislation was enacted to require all public high schools to offer at least one high-quality computer science course beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. MABE supported the 2018 bill, with amendments, and greatly appreciates the initiative to establish and fund the new Maryland Center for Computing Education to support much needed computer science-related professional development.

However, MABE believes that the recently enacted "Computer Science for All" legislation is sufficiently comprehensive in its approach to developing and implementing the expansion of computer science education in Maryland, without the need for the additional reporting requirements proposed by this bill.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 894.