

**BILL:** House Bill 1301  
**TITLE:** Nonpublic Educational Programs - Children with Disabilities - Costs of Teacher Salaries  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**DATE:** March 10, 2022  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all twenty-four of the state's local boards of education, opposes House Bill 1301, which would require the State and certain counties to pay for certain costs of salaries for teachers at nonpublic educational programs.

Local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that students receive high quality special education programs and instruction to meet the unique needs of every disabled student. Maryland's private professional educators and school administrators play a significant role in providing special education services in accordance and compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and corresponding federal and state regulations. While MABE recognizes the merits of providing equitable salaries for public and non-public educational staff, local school systems would face tremendous hardship funding the mandated raises proposed in House Bill 1301.

More specifically, MABE objects to the bill because it would hold local school systems responsible for ensuring the salaries of non-public school employees are equitable to their counterparts in public schools without any corresponding authority over those non-public school employees. Non-public school education staff are outside the scope and control of the local school systems. These professionals are not included in negotiated collective bargaining agreements which govern public school employee rights and responsibilities. Again, MABE does not believe that funding the salaries of non-public school staff as proposed in this bill should be within the scope of mandated spending for local systems because of this lack of supervision and control and accountability for employee performance or staffing levels.

Local boards of education have great respect and appreciation for the dedication and commitment of public and non-public educators who ensure that the educational needs of students qualifying for special education services are being met. However, MABE objects to the specific funding mandate proposed under House Bill 1301.

Lastly, the fiscal note interprets the bill as imposing a funding mandate on local school systems, but the bill clearly imposes the mandate on county governments. MABE urges clarification on this critically important issue before any action is taken on House Bill 1301.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on HB 1301.