

BILL: House Bill 1450
TITLE: Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations
POSITION: SUPPORT
DATE: March 8, 2022
COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, strongly supports House Bill 1450.

MABE supports this bill in order to extend dates for the development, adoption, and submission of plans to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future; alter the date by which the state criteria to evaluate local implementation plans must be developed; and modify the distribution of revenues to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund. Specifically, the bill:

- Extends the State Implementation Plan deadline from Feb. 15, 2022 to Dec. 1, 2022;
- Extends the MSDE deadline for plan criteria from April 1, 2022 to Sept. 1, 2022;
- Extends the local implementation plan deadline extended from June 15, 2022 to March 15, 2023; and
- Revises the formula for dedicated sales tax revenue to the Blueprint Fund.

In addition to these extensions, MABE is aware of the need for the consideration of additional extensions for implementation timelines for other programs being developed under the Blueprint. Local boards are committed to the success of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act and believes the provisions of this bill are consistent achieving that success. MABE led the advocacy effort to create the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education precisely so that an updated adequacy study and other funding and accountability issues could be debated and transformed into legislation to update and improve Maryland's school finance system. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act represents the culmination of these efforts.

MABE continues to view the Kirwan Commission's recommendations and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation as a resounding "Call to Action" for the building of a world class education system in Maryland. The Blueprint guarantees the fulfillment of the key policy and funding provisions in the following major policy areas, to ensure that each student, in every school, in every community, is provided with:

- High-quality early childhood education programs for 3 and 4 year-olds;
- High-quality and increasingly diverse teachers and principals;
- Access to college and career readiness pathways (including advanced college prep programs and career and technical education that leads to employment); and
- The significant additional state and local resources needed to ensure that each and every student is afforded every opportunity to succeed.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 1450 and looks forward to working with the legislature on any clarifications and adjustments needed to ensure a smooth and successful launch to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act.