

BILL: Senate Bill 124
TITLE: Public Schools – Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste
DATE: March 31, 2022
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 124, which would establish a grant program to support local school systems in operating school-based programs to reduce food waste generated by school meal programs and to collect and process food and other waste for composting.

MABE requests amendments to clarify that school systems, but not individual schools, should be eligible to apply for grants to reduce and compost school food waste. This amendment would simply ensure that schools, students, and staff participating in this new grant program are doing so in accordance with local school system policies and procedures. The scope of the grant program is necessarily broad, including professional development, purchasing of equipment, and business outreach and contracting. Given these factors, MABE requests that school systems be at the helm in applying for these grants.

The requested amendment would strike “AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS” in line 4 on page 2; strike “OR A PUBLIC SCHOOL” in line 7 on page 2; and strike “OR PUBLIC SCHOOL” in line 18 on page 2 and in line 1 on page 4.

MABE supports the innovative goals and objectives of the proposed grant program to reduce and compost school waste and looks forward to the successful implementation of this program within the Maryland State Department of Education and through the commitment of school systems, staff, and students, to carry out the program.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 124, with the amendments described above.