



## Legislative Committee Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2023

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Virtual via Zoom

Karen Yoho, Chair  
Brenda Wolff, Vice Chair

### Agenda

|    |   |   |                                     |         |
|----|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Meeting Opening & Roll Call <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li></ul>   | Opening Remarks                             | Karen Yoho/<br>Brenda Wolff         | 10 min. |
| 2. | Bill Highlights & Decisions   | Information,<br>Discussion,<br>and Decision | Karen Yoho/<br>John Woolums/<br>All | 90 min. |
| 3. | Budget Highlights & Recent Developments   | Information &<br>Discussion                 | John Woolums/<br>All                | 15 min. |
| 4. | Future Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feb. 13, 2023</li><li>• March 6, 2023</li><li>• March 27, 2023</li><li>• April 24, 2023</li></ul> | Information                                 | Karen Yoho/<br>John Woolums         | 5 min.  |
| 5. | Adjournment   | Closing<br>Remarks                          | Karen Yoho                          |         |

## Meeting Materials

### Bill Highlights & Bills for Decisions

#### New Program

**[HB 546/SB 551](#) - Education - Service Year Option Program - Establishment (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)** Establishing the Service Year Option Program; requiring the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to administer and provide staff for the Program. To participate in the program, a young person would be required to have received a high school diploma or GED within two years of applying for a service placement. Participants are to be paid \$15 an hour by their employer, for at least 30 hours a week. In addition to the hourly wages paid by the employer, participants who complete a year of service would be eligible for a stipend of up to \$3,000 from the department. A participant would be expected to work with an on-site mentor, who would provide job training, career and postsecondary education counseling, and financial literacy skills. In considering employers to participate in the program, the Department of Civic and Service Innovation would be required to develop program focus areas to address priority issues, including climate, education, and health. The bill sets a goal of 200 participants in the first year of the program, and 2,000 by its fourth year. The Governor's budget includes \$15 million for the program. (Administration) House Hearing 2/21; Senate Hearing 2/22 **(Hold/Support)**

The purpose of the program is to: (1) provide service placements to recent high school graduates and other individuals with similar levels of education as an additional option to pursuing career and technical training or postsecondary education; (2) equip program participants with professional development, mentoring, job training, and other support while working in high-impact service placements; (3) help address the state's greatest challenges by channeling the next generation into public impact work; and (4) strengthen a pipeline of talent into state and local governments to fill present and future staffing needs.

### Bill Highlights for Discussion & Decisions

#### Blueprint Implementation

**[HB 1196](#) - County Boards of Education – Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation Coordinator - Salary Grant** Requiring the State, for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, to provide a \$150,000 grant to each county board of education for the salary of a Blueprint for Maryland's Future implementation coordinator in each county. (Del. Smith) Hearing 3/7 (Support)

#### Prekindergarten & the Blueprint

**[HB 770](#) - Publicly Funded Full-Day Prekindergarten Program - Tier I Child - Alteration of Definition** Altering the definition of a "Tier I child" who may be enrolled beginning in the 2022-2023 school year to a full-day prekindergarten program, to include children with a disability, children who are homeless youths, and children who are from homes in which English is not the primary spoken language. (Del. Atterbeary) Hearing 2/22 (Support)

#### Community Schools & the Blueprint

**[SB 869](#) - Primary and Secondary Education – Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program – Eligibility** Accelerating and expanding the implementation of the community schools program by reducing the rate of poverty for program eligibility for personnel and per pupil grants. (Senate President Ferguson) Hearing 3/7 (Support)

**SB 814 – Promise Schools – Establishment** Requiring the State Department of Education to designate 10 community schools that are identified as low-performing or in need of comprehensive support and improvement as promise schools each year; requiring a county board of education to perform a comprehensive analysis of key factors and causes that led to a school being low-performing or in need of comprehensive support and improvement; requiring the Governor to include \$2,000,000 in the annual budget bill to support technical assistance and support for promise schools; etc. (Sen. A. Washington) Hearing 2/24 **(Hold/No Position)**

## **College & Career Readiness**

**SB 127 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student FAFSA Data - Reporting Requirement** This bill alters a reporting requirement to require the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to report specified student Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to specified committees of the General Assembly by December 15 each year beginning in 2023 and ending in 2028. The MLDS Center must disaggregate the information by county and other student subgroups. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must provide the MLDS Center with access to student FAFSA data as specified. The requirements related to a local board of education reporting FAFSA data are repealed. (Sen. Ellis) Hearing 1/24 (Support) Passed in Senate

**SB 413 - Apprenticeship 2030 Commission** Establishing the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission to examine and make recommendations to expand access to apprenticeships to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for young people to participate in apprenticeships. Purposes include (i) expanding registered apprenticeships in industry sectors with skill shortages; (ii) growing the number of registered apprenticeships from 11,000 in 2021 to at least 80,000 in 2030; and (iii) reaching the Blueprint goal for 45% of high school graduates completing the High School Level of a registered apprenticeship. (Sen. Rosapepe) Hearing 2/23 **(Hold/Oppose)**

**SB 668 – Teacher Degree Apprenticeship** Establishing the Teacher Apprenticeship Startup Grant Program in the Maryland Department of Labor; requiring a sponsor participating in a teacher apprenticeship program to establish an apprenticeship that develops certain career paths and pays certain compensation; requiring a sponsor, in coordination with the CTE Committee, to develop a high school level apprenticeship; authorizing the Department to award up to \$500,000 to a sponsor for development and launch of a teacher apprenticeship program; etc. (Sen. Rosapepe) Hearing 3/3 **(Hold/SWA)**

**SB 879 - Job Help All Act** - Requiring a county board of education to distribute certain funds to a local workforce development board beginning in fiscal year 2025; establishing eligibility factors for a local workforce development board to receive a percentage of a \$50,000,000 appropriation; establishing calculations for the distribution of the appropriation; and requiring the State, beginning in fiscal year 2025, to distribute a percentage of funding to a local workforce development board according to a determined formula. (Sen. Rosapepe) **(Hold/Oppose)**

## **Employee Relations**

**HB 85/SB 206 - Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size** This bill repeals the prohibition against a public school employer and employee organization negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class during collective bargaining. (Del. J. Lewis/Sen. Beidle) House Hearing 2/2/Senate Hearing 2/9 (Oppose)

**HB 883/SB 791 - Primary and Secondary Education - Public School Employees - Job Duties and Salaries** Altering the minimum salary for and establishing certain salary increases for certain public school employees; altering the duties of an assistant principal on the career ladder; repealing a requirement that a county board of education must select a certain teacher on the teacher leadership track of the career ladder to write certain curriculum and assessment plans; and generally relating to the salaries and job duties of public school employees. (Del. Feldmark/Sen. Elfleth) Hearing 3/1 **(Hold/SWA)**

**HB 888 - Education - Prekindergarten Alternative Teacher Preparation Program - Authorization and Reporting** Authorizing prekindergarten alternative teacher preparation programs; altering certain reporting requirements to include reports on prekindergarten alternative teacher preparation programs; and altering the high staff qualifications for ensuring the program quality of eligible prekindergarten providers beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. (Del. Solomon) Hearing 3/1 (**Hold/SWA**)

**SB 367 – Public Employee Relations Act** Consolidating and altering certain laws governing collective bargaining for certain public employees, including laws related to the establishment of bargaining units, elections and certification of exclusive representatives, employee and employer rights, unfair labor practices, and strikes and lockouts; prohibits lockouts and strikes by public employees; establishing the Public Employee Relations Board to oversee collective bargaining activities for certain public employees; repealing the State Labor Relations Board, the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board, and the Public School Labor Relations Board; authorizing binding arbitration during collective bargaining negotiations between public school employers and public employee exclusive representatives; making school calendar and class size permissive subjects of bargaining. (Sen. Lam) Hearing 2/16 (Oppose)

**SB 735 – Workgroup to Study the Wages of Education Support Professionals** Establishing the Workgroup to determine what percentage of education support professionals in the State earn a living wage and to study increasing the wages of education support professionals to attract and retain skilled workers; and requiring the Workgroup to submit its final report of its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly by August 31, 2024. (Sen. Zucker) Hearing 3/8 (Support)

**SB 809 – Education – Public School Employees – Parental Leave** Providing that certain public school employees may be entitled to parental leave with pay under certain circumstances; authorizing certain public school employees to use certain leave for certain purposes; and generally relating to parental leave for public school employees. If the amount of accrued annual and personal leave is less than 60 days, the public school employer shall provide the employee with additional paid leave to attain 60 days of parental leave. (Sen. A. Washington) Hearing 3/2 (**Hold/Oppose**)

**SB 828/HB 988 - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications** Modifying the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program by clarifying and altering certain provisions relating to the administration of the Program; establishing the employer and employee shares of the total rate of contribution; requiring the State to pay for certain contributions for certain employers and certain covered employees; prohibiting a covered individual from being required to use certain leave before, or while, receiving benefits under the Program; etc. (Sen. Hayes/Del. Qi) Hearing 3/2 (**Hold/SWA**)

**HB 1219 – Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act of 2023** Requiring MSDE to establish specific goals for the recruitment and retention of teachers in teacher preparation programs; transferring the administration of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland program to the Department and altering the qualifications for the program; establishing the Grow Our Own Educators Scholarship Program and Fund to provide scholarships to individuals who pledge to work full-time as a teacher in the State; establishing the Educator Internship Stipend Program; etc. (Administration) (Support)

## **Governance & Accountability**

**HB 272 – Public School Systems - Performance Audits - Office of the Inspector General for Education** This bill requires, absent an agreement between a county governing body and a local school board of education, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), at the request of the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE), to contract for a performance audit of a local public school system to address issues raised in findings identified by OIGE through an investigation or investigative audit. (Del. Atterbeary) Hearing 2/8 (Support w/Amendments)

**HB 782 – Education - Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education - Powers and Notifications** Providing that the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education is a state educational authority under a certain federal law; providing that the Office is the State unit authorized to audit or evaluate certain education programs; prohibiting the Inspector General for Education from serving more than two full terms; requiring the Governor, the Attorney General, and the State Treasurer

to provide the Inspector General with a certain notice and opportunity for a hearing before removing the Inspector General; etc. (Del. Atterbeary) Hearing 2/22 (**Hold/No Position**)

**SB 394** – **State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal** Altering the membership of the State Board of Education to include a school principal as a member; and providing for the initial term of the principal member of the State Board. (Sen. Kramer) Hearing 3/1 (**Hold/No Position**)

## **Student Health**

**HB 78/SB 120** - **Public Schools - Anaphylactic Food Allergies - Guidelines** This bill requires each local board of education to adopt and implement guidelines, in accordance with the Maryland State School Health Service guidelines, to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents (specifically, major food allergens) in classrooms and common areas. Each public school must develop a system to disclose, within a reasonable time in advance of service, the foods served in the school and the major food allergens contained in the food. The principal of a public school that has a child attending with an anaphylactic allergy must monitor and implement the strategies developed in accordance with the Maryland State School Health Service guidelines and the guidelines established by the local board of education as required by the bill. (Del Palakovich Carr/Sen. Lam) Hearings 1/24 (Support w/Amendments)

**HB 265/SB 388** – **Public Schools - Standardized Behavioral Health Questionnaire for Students - Development and Implementation** This bill clarifies that each behavioral health services coordinator must develop and implement a standardized behavioral health questionnaire (instead of screening). The questionnaire must be developed in accordance with Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports guidelines for developing a standardized questionnaire to identify students with behavioral health services needs. The guidelines must be (1) developed in consultation with specified stakeholders; (2) developed using an evidenced-based measurement approach; and (3) updated every five years. Under the bill, each local school system must give the standardized questionnaire to the parent or guardian of each student when the student enrolls and annually thereafter. (Del. Guyton/Sen. Lewis Young) House Hearing 2/8/Senate Hearing 3/1) (No Position)

**HB 266** – **Public and Nonpublic Schools - Bronchodilator and Epinephrine Availability and Use - Policies** This bill requires each local board of education to establish a policy for public schools to authorize the school nurse and other school personnel to administer a bronchodilator to a student who is (1) determined by an individual with specified training to have asthma; (2) experiencing asthma-related symptoms; or (3) perceived to be in respiratory distress. A bronchodilator may be administered to such a student regardless of whether the student has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease or has been prescribed a bronchodilator by a licensed health care practitioner. However, a bronchodilator may not be administered to a prekindergarten student without a prescription, as specified. The policy must include other specified elements. Likewise, the bill authorizes each nonpublic school to establish a policy that meets similar requirements. The bill also makes parallel changes to existing requirements for each local board of education's epinephrine use policy. (Del. Boyce) Hearing 2/8 (Oppose)

**HB 290/SB 237** – **Public Health – Dental Services – Access** Establishing prohibitions and requirements regarding the eligibility for dental services and the reimbursement of dental-related services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; requiring parents/guardians of children enrolled in the Maryland public school system, a family child care home, a large child care home, or a child care center to provide to the system, the home, or the facility certain evidence that the child has received dental screenings. Requiring parents/guardians of public school students to provide to the child's school evidence that the child received a dental screening from a licensed dentist within 6 months before the child's sixth, ninth, and twelfth birthday, within 30 days after the child's birthday. Family child care homes and centers must be given proof of dental screenings for children ages 1, 3 and 6. (Del. Bagnall/Sen. Klausmeier) Hearings 2/14 (**Hold/SWA**)

**HB 878** – **Public Schools - Student Telehealth Appointments - Policy and Access** Requiring each county board of education to establish a policy to accommodate students who need to participate in telehealth appointments during the school day; and requiring each public middle and high school to

designate a space that meets certain requirements for student telehealth appointments. (Del. D. Jones) Hearing 3/1 (**Hold/SWA**)

**SB 628 – School-Based Health Centers - Services, Infrastructure, and Funding** Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide coverage for sports physicals performed by school-based health centers; requiring the Secretary of Health to include certain infrastructure needs in guidelines on the expansion of school-based health centers; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health, on or before January 1, 2024, to develop a certain school-based health center funding allocation formula and a certain budget proposal. (Sen. Lam) (**Hold/Support**)

### **School Meals**

**HB 514/SB 559 - Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Annual Appropriation** Increasing the appropriation required by the Governor for the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program from \$7,550,000 to \$12,050,000 in the annual budget bill. (Del. Solomon/Sen. Guzzone) Hearing 2/22 (Support)

**HB 628/SB 557 - Primary and Secondary Education – Breakfast and Lunch Programs – Universal Expansion** Altering the standards of the State Free Feeding Program, beginning in fiscal year 2025, to require that if a school participates in the federal School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program each student in the school must be offered a meal at no cost to the student; providing for the reimbursement rate at which the State shall pay county boards and participating nonpublic schools for the meals offered to students; etc. (Del. Reznik/Sen. Guzzone) Hearing 2/22 (Support)

### **Special Education**

**HB 5 – Education – Playground Accessibility – Communication Boards** This bill requires each local board of education to construct a “communication board” in each playground under its jurisdiction by October 1, 2028. “Communication board” means a device that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to enable individuals with limited language skills to express themselves and communicate. (Del. Hartman) Hearing 1/24 (Oppose)

**HB 294 – County Boards of Education - Due Process Proceedings for Children with Disabilities - Burden of Proof** This bill places the burden of proof on a local board of education in a due process hearing that is held to resolve disputes about the identification, evaluation, or educational placements of children with disabilities or the provision of a free appropriate public education. However, if a student otherwise would be required to enroll in a public school but a parent or guardian seeks tuition reimbursement for the unilateral placement of a student by the parent or guardian, the burden of proof in these hearings is on the parent or guardian. The bill states that it is not intended to change federal or State law regarding recordkeeping requirements or what constitutes a free appropriate public education. The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2026. (Del. Atterbeary) Hearing 2/8 (Oppose)

**HB 448 – Nonpublic Education - Special Education Placements - Renaming and Teacher Salaries (Teacher Pay Parity Act)** This bill requires the State Board of Education and local boards of education to use the term “special education placement” instead of “nonpublic education program” or “nonpublic placement” in all communications and replaces these latter two terms with “special education placement” in relevant portions of statute. The bill also reduces the local contribution (and increases the State contribution) for what the bill deems special education placements beginning in fiscal 2024. A special education placement must provide its teachers a salary that is equivalent to the local school salaries, phased in over three years beginning in fiscal 2024. If the costs to do so are not met by the existing State and local cost sharing mechanism for special education placements, additional funding is to be paid for by the State and the local school system in the same proportion as provided by that mechanism. Funding for other components of special education placements may not be reduced to provide the required teacher salaries. (Del. Korman/Sen. Zucker) Senate Hearings 2/8; House Hearing 2/15 (**Hold/SWA**)

**HB 469 – Children with Disabilities - Special Education Services – Eligibility** Extending the eligibility for a child with a disability to receive special education and related services through the child's 16th year of school. (Del. Guyton) Hearing 2/15 (Oppose)

## **Curriculum, Instruction & Assessments**

**HB 99 – Education – Public High Schools – Financial Literacy Curriculum** This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop curriculum content for a half-credit course in financial literacy. The course developed by SBE must include (1) instructional content based on the SBE-approved instructional program on financial literacy for high school students in existence on June 30, 2023, and (2) lessons on specified content related to financial literacy. Each local board of education must implement the financial literacy curriculum content developed by SBE and make the course available to students in every public high school under the board's jurisdiction. The bill also repeals a reporting requirement for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) related to the certification of local financial literacy instruction. (Del Sample-Hughes) Hearing 2/1 (Oppose)

**HB 119/SB 199 - Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework - Established** Requiring the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), to develop a comprehensive health education framework; requiring each county board of education to create an age-appropriate curriculum that is consistent with the comprehensive health education framework; requiring each county board to establish a method by which a parent or guardian may opt out of certain topics, subject to certain requirements; requiring each county board to report each year to MSDE on certain actions; and generally relating to the establishment of a comprehensive health education framework in public schools. (Oppose)

**HB 890 – Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education** This bill establishes the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education to make recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland. MSDE must staff the commission; members of the commission may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses, as provided in the State budget. By December 30 each year, beginning in 2023, the commission must report its findings and recommendations to SBE, the Governor, and the General Assembly. By July 1 each year, SBE must review the commission's findings and recommendations and make any appropriate changes to the educational standards for prekindergarten through grade 12. (Del. Acevero) Hearing 3/1 (Oppose)

**SB 238 – Public High Schools – Financial Literacy – Curriculum, Graduation Requirement, and Professional Development** This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE), with the assistance of the Maryland Council on Economic Education, to develop curriculum content for a semester-long, half-credit high school course in financial literacy. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the financial literacy content developed by SBE must be taught in every public high school. Beginning with students graduating in 2030, a student must complete one of the following courses to graduate from high school: (1) the financial literacy course developed by SBE or (2) if approved by the local board of education, a personal finance course offered at a community college. (Sen. Klausmeier) Hearing 2/8 (Oppose)

**SB 837 - Education – Curriculum – Study of the Holocaust (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)** Requiring MSDE to develop certain guidelines on or before January 1, 2024, and revise and enhance instruction about the Holocaust in public schools for certain elementary, middle, and high school grade levels; requiring all public schools and certain nonpublic schools to include the revised and enhanced Holocaust instruction in school curricula beginning in the 2024-2025 school year; encouraging certain nonpublic schools to include in the curriculum a unit of instruction on the Holocaust; etc. (Sen. Kramer) Hearing 2/22 (Hold)

**SB 882/HB 1098 – Education - English Learners and Dual Language Immersion Programs - Funding and Establishment (Multilingualism Is an Asset Act)** Providing additional funding for certain English learners subject to certain conditions; establishing the Dual Language Immersion Program in the State Department of Education to develop, fund, implement, scale up, and sustain the expansion of

research-based dual language two-way immersion programs in the State; requiring the Governor, in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to include \$10,000,000 in the annual budget bill for dual language immersion grants under the Program; etc. (Del. R. Lewis/Sen. M. Washington) House Hearing 3/7 (**Hold**)

## **Student Behavior**

**[HB 576/SB 629](#) – Primary and Secondary Education - Policies on Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation – Revisions** Altering certain requirements for a model policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation in public and nonpublic schools; requiring that if the act of bullying, harassment, or intimidation is determined to be motivated by the alleged victim's actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, notification to the parent or guardian of the alleged victim shall be at the discretion of the alleged victim; and requiring the State Board of Education and each nonpublic school to update the model policy by September 1, 2023. (Del. Ebersole/Sen. Lam) House Hearing 2/22/Senate Hearing 2/24 (**Hold/SWA**)

**[SB 811](#) – School Discipline - Behavioral Health and Safety - Data Collection and School Resource Officers** Requiring the State Department of Education to disaggregate certain discipline-related data in an electronic spreadsheet format for the Department's website, make the data available to the public, and report certain discipline-related information each year; requiring the Department to lower and maintain a certain risk ratio used to identify a school's disproportional disciplinary practices; requiring each county board of education to develop a behavioral health and safety plan by September 1, 2024 for schools with school resource officers; clarifies SROs may not be directed by school administrators to administer student discipline policies, etc. (Sen. A. Washington) Hearing 3/14 (**Hold/SWA**)

## **School Safety**

**[HB 515](#) - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills - Requirements** Requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate with an institution of higher education to study the effectiveness and impact of active shooter safety drills by researching and analyzing certain data collected by local school systems; requiring the School Safety Subcabinet to develop best practices for local school systems to increase mental health services for students and school personnel before, during, and after active shooter safety drills; requiring MSDE to adopt regulations to incorporate active shooter safety drills in the annual schedule of drills for local school systems; requiring local school systems to take certain actions regarding active shooter safety drills, including collecting and reporting certain data to the Center, and providing certain notice to parents, students, and school personnel; requiring the Department to develop model content regarding safe firearm storage and requiring local school systems to distribute the model content to parents at the beginning of each school year; and generally relating to active shooter safety drills in public schools. (Del. Solomon) Hearing 2/15 (**Hold/SWA**)

## **Cybersecurity & Data Privacy**

**[HB 901](#) - Consumer Protection - Online Products and Services - Children's Data** Requiring a business that offers an online product likely to be accessed by children to complete a certain data protection impact assessment under certain circumstances; prohibiting a business from offering a certain online product before completing a data protection impact assessment; requiring businesses to document certain risks associated with certain online products; requiring certain privacy protections for certain online products; prohibiting certain data collection and sharing practices; etc. (Del. Solomon) (No Position)

**[SB 799](#) - Public Schools - Cyber Safety Guide - Development, Usage, and Reporting** Requiring the State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health Administration within the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center for School Safety, and the Department of Information Technology jointly to develop and publish a cyber safety guide to be made available in public schools beginning in the 2024-2025 school year; requiring the cyber safety guide to be developed in consultation with professionals who specialize in child development and child psychology; etc. (Sen. Hester) Hearing 3/14 (Support)



## Liability

**HB 1 - Civil Actions - Child Sexual Abuse - Definition and Statute of Limitations (The Child Victims Act of 2023)** Altering the definition of "sexual abuse" and eliminating the statute of limitations in certain civil actions relating to child sexual abuse. The bill states "That this Act shall be construed to apply retroactively to revive any action that was barred by the application of the period of limitations applicable before October 1, 2023, if the action is filed before October 1, 2025." (Del. Wilson) Hearing 3/2 (No Position)

**HB 207/SB 291 - Courts - Prohibited Liability Agreements - Recreational Facilities** This bill establishes that any provision in a contract or agreement relating to the use of a "recreational facility" that purports to release the recreational facility from, or indemnify or hold harmless the recreational facility against, liability for bodily injury caused by or resulting from the negligence or other wrongful act of the recreational facility or its agents or employees is against public policy and is void and unenforceable. Under the bill, a "recreational facility" is a commercial recreational facility, a commercial athletic facility, or an amusement attraction. (Del. Moon/Sen. Carter) House Hearing 2/1; Senate Hearing 2/16 (Support)

## Virtual Learning

**SB 610 - Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education - Requirements** This bill establishes requirements related to virtual education for public schools, including requirements for (1) virtual schools; (2) teacher preparation programs; (3) addressing and mitigating the effects of learning loss; and (4) expanding computer and Internet security infrastructure for virtual education. The bill also authorizes virtual education days for severe weather conditions under specified circumstances. No virtual schools for the elementary band may be approved for operation before December 1, 2024. A virtual school may not include classes for prekindergarten or kindergarten students. A virtual school established prior to the bill's effective date may continue to operate through the 2024-2025 school year, as specified. (Sen. M. Washington) Hearing 3/1 (Support with Amendments)

**SB 820 - Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education - Requirements** This bill establishes requirements related to virtual education for public schools, including requirements for (1) virtual schools; (2) teacher preparation programs; (3) addressing and mitigating the effects of learning loss; and (4) expanding computer and Internet security infrastructure for virtual education. The bill also authorizes virtual education days for severe weather conditions under specified circumstances. No virtual schools for the elementary band may be approved for operation before December 1, 2024. A virtual school may not include classes for prekindergarten or kindergarten students. The bill also requires MSDE to establish a universal learning management system (LMS) by September 1, 2023, that may be adopted by a local board. A virtual school established prior to the bill's effective date may continue to operate through the 2024-2025 school year, as specified. (Sen. A. Washington) Hearing 3/1 (Support w/Amendments)

**SB 829 - Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education - Requirements** This bill establishes requirements related to virtual education for public schools, including requirements for (1) virtual schools; (2) teacher preparation programs; (3) addressing and mitigating the effects of learning loss; and (4) expanding computer and Internet security infrastructure for virtual education. The bill also authorizes virtual education days for severe weather conditions under specified circumstances. No virtual schools for the elementary band may be approved for operation before December 1, 2024. A virtual school may include classes for prekindergarten or kindergarten students. The bill also requires MSDE to establish a universal learning management system (LMS) by September 1, 2023, that may be adopted by a local board. A virtual school established prior to the bill's effective date may continue to operate through the 2024-2025 school year, as specified. (Sen. Hester) Hearing 3/1 (Support with Amendments)

## School Facilities

**SB 95 - Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools** This bill requires each local school board to annually prepare a report on safe alternative routes to public schools. A "safe alternative route" includes (1) a road with sidewalks and, at intersections, crosswalks; (2) a foot path; and (3) a bike path. The county governing body must annually review the

report and construct any sidewalks and crosswalks necessary to create safe alternative routes for students as identified in the report. If the county governing body must alter a road that is not subject to the jurisdiction of the county in order to meet the bill's requirements, the governing body must develop a plan with the governmental entity or person that has control of the road and take reasonable efforts to execute the plan in an expeditious manner. (Sen. Ellis) Hearing 2/8 (Oppose)

**SB 818/HB 313 - Education - Public School Stadium Grant Program – Established** Establishing the Public School Stadium Grant Program to provide grants to county boards for major renovation or replacement of stadiums for public high schools; requiring the Interagency Commission on School Construction to implement and administer the Program; requiring the Governor to include in the annual operating or capital budget bill an appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the Program; and specifying that State funding provided under the Program is supplemental to public school construction funding from other sources. (Sen. A. Washington) Hearing 3/8 (No Position)

**SB 835 – Public Schools – Heating, Ventilation, and Air–Conditioning Systems and Carbon Dioxide Monitors – Monitoring and Reporting Requirements** Requiring the Interagency Commission on School Construction, on or before July 1, 2025, to complete an initial statewide heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems assessment of all public school facilities in the State using certain assessment requirements; requiring the Commission to develop certain heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning standards and incorporate the standards into certain educational facilities sufficiency standards; requiring that assessments are conducted by a certified TAB technician and reviewed by a mechanical engineer. (Sen. Brooks) **(Hold/Oppose)**

## Calendar

**HB 510/SB 321 – Public Schools - Length of School Year and Innovative School Scheduling Models – Revisions** Altering the minimum length of school year standard from 180 days and 1,080 hours to 1,080 hours; and authorizing county boards of education to explore the use of innovative school scheduling models for public schools in the county, including extended year, year-round schooling, 4-day school week, or other models that do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time in public schools. (Del. D. Jones/Sen. Beidle) Hearings 2/22 (Support)

**SB 338 - Primary and Secondary Education - Extended School Year Innovation Grant** Establishing the Extended School Year Innovation Grant to develop and implement an extended school year scheduling model in public primary and secondary schools; requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Grant to participating public primary or secondary schools to support certain expenses associated with implementing an extended school year scheduling model; and requiring the Governor, for each fiscal year through 2035, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$25,000,000 to the Department for the Grant. (Sen. President Ferguson) Hearing 2/22 **(Hold/Support)**

## Enrollment & Funding

**HB 598 – Education – Funding for General Education Programs – Definition Alterations** Altering certain definitions relating to enrollment that are used for the calculation of funding for general education programs; and generally relating to funding for general education programs. Adopting the use of average enrollment change to use projected growth in enrollment to determine annual funding. (Del. Wu) **(Hold/SWA)**

**HB 799 – Education - Low-Density Calculation - Mandated Funding** This bill establishes a State aid program to county governments based on low population density beginning in FY 2025 through FY 2027. State funding is provided to jurisdictions with (1) a county population density of less than 100 individuals per square mile and (2) a public school full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of less than 2,000 students. Per pupil aid amounts, which increase each year, are specified. The State aid amount is determined by multiplying the FTE enrollment by the product of the per pupil amount and the number of square miles in the county. (Del. Ghrist) Hearing 3/7 (No Position/Local)

## Charter Schools

**[SB 646](#) - School Construction - Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment** Establishing the Public Charter School Facility Fund to provide funding on an annual basis to public charter schools in the State for eligible expenses associated with school facilities; requiring the Interagency Commission on School Construction to administer the Fund; and requiring the Fund to be used only to acquire, plan, develop, finance, construct, lease, improve, repair, and maintain public charter school facilities. The amount of funding provided to a public charter school may not exceed \$2,000 per pupil enrolled. (Sen. McCray) Hearing 3/7 (**Hold/Oppose**)

## Nonpublic Schools

**[HB 603/SB 419](#) – Nonpublic Schools - School Health Services Program - Eligibility for Participation** Altering the requirements of the school health services program to allow participation by certain nonpublic schools; prohibiting a county board of education from expending more than \$40 per student, adjusted for inflation, to provide school health services to students in certain nonpublic schools; prohibiting a county board from providing adequate school health services in nonpublic schools that discriminate in certain ways; and requiring the Governor to provide \$4 million in the annual budget bill starting in fiscal year 2025 for the program. (Del. Stein/Sen. Hettleman) House Hearing 2/22/Senate Hearing 2/24 (Oppose)

## Parental Rights

**[HB 666/SB 566](#) – Family Law – Fundamental Parental Rights** Establishing that a parent has the fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child; and prohibiting the State or a political subdivision from infringing on a parent's fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child unless the State or political subdivision can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence certain factors. (Del. Miller/Sen. Ready) Hearing 2/22 (No Position)

## Fiscal Briefing on the State Budget & Maryland Economy

- [DLS Fiscal Briefing](#) (1/25/23)

An unexpected surge in the number of students qualifying for free and reduced-price meals is the primary reason for the deterioration in the sustainability of the Blueprint Fund from prior forecasts.

- Fall 2022 enrollment figures show 110,503 more students qualifying for free and reduced-price meals than in fall 2021. As a result, the compensatory education component of the State's K-12 education formulas grows by \$390 million in fiscal 2024.
- Over the five-year forecast period, this translates to more than \$1.6 billion in additional compensatory education costs and results in more schools qualifying for concentration of poverty grants.