



Legislative Committee Meeting

Monday, March 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"> • Introductions 	Opening Remarks	Karen Yoho/ Brenda Wolff	10 min.
2.	Priority Bill Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to Care Act Revisions Bill • Public Employee Relations Act • Virtual Schools Bill • Educator Shortage Act • State Curriculum Bill 	Information & Discussion	Karen Yoho/ John Woolums/ All	45 min.
3.	Bill Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill status updates by subject area 	Information & Discussion	Karen Yoho/ John Woolums/ All	45 min.
4.	Budget Highlights & Recent Developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSDE Aid to Education • House Appropriations Actions 	Information & Discussion	John Woolums/ All	20 min.
5.	Future Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 13, 2023 • March 27, 2023 • April 24, 2023 	Information	Karen Yoho/ John Woolums	
6.	Adjournment	Closing Remarks	Karen Yoho	

Meeting Materials

Bill Updates

Time to Care Act Revisions Bill

[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 (Support w/Amendments)

- As introduced - Extends the start date for employer/employee contributions to the FAML I Fund from October 1, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2024; and requires the Secretary of Labor to set the contribution rate by Sept. 1, 2023.

MABE, MACo, and MML Requested Amendments:

- Further extend the start date for contributions. (From Jan, 1, 2024 to July 1, 2024 to align with the fiscal year.); and require agency adoption of criteria and procedures governing employer requests for exemptions from the state plan based on the level of benefits in the employer provided plan. (By Jan.1, 2024.)

Administration/Sponsor Amendments:

- Further extend the start date for contributions. (From Jan, 1, 2024 to Oct. 1, 2024); Regulations due by Jan. 1, 2024).

Collective Bargaining Bills

[SB 367/HB 984](#) – 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 (PSLRB); 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)

MABE's opposition is focused on the following provisions of the bill, which would:

- repeal the prohibition against a public school employer and employee organization negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class and the school calendar during collective bargaining;
- provide that the new Board is not bound by any prior regulation, order, action, opinion, or decision of the PSLRB, SLRB, or SHELRB except decisions regarding unit composition, and specifies that the board is bound by certain judicial orders regarding the scope of bargaining; and

- require binding arbitration in the event of an impasse between employers and exclusive representatives for public schools and between any party in the event of a dispute under a collective bargaining agreement.

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)

Virtual School Bills

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 610 - Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education - Requirements This bill establishes requirements related to virtual education for public schools, etc. (Sen. M. Washington) Hearing 3/1 (Support w/Amendments)

- Both bills are essentially reintroductions of HB 1163/SB 362 passed in 2022 and vetoed by Gov. Hogan. MABE supported this legislation, while seeking amendments to allow the continued operation beyond the 2023-2024 school years of the virtual education program established through the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium. Both bills continue allow this program to continue conditionally through the 2024-2025 school year, with state superintendent authority to revoke before then based on low student performance.

Educator Shortage Act

HB 1219/SB 893 – Maryland Educator Shortage 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) House Hearing 3/1; Senate Hearing 3/7 (Support) Bill passing with major amendments in the House.

Curriculum

SB 199 - Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework – Established (SB 199) 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. (Sen. Lam) Hearing 2/8 (Oppose)

[HB 119](#) - County Boards of Education - Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study – Requirements

Requiring each county board of education to follow the policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools established by the State Board of Education; requiring the State Superintendent to provide notice to a county board if the State Superintendent determines that the county board is not following the State Board policy and guidelines or is authorizing students to opt-out of instruction in a manner that is not approved by the State Board; requiring the State Superintendent to direct the State Comptroller to withhold certain funds from the county board if the county board does not resolve the discrepancy within certain periods of time; requiring the State Comptroller to release funds withheld if the State Superintendent determines that the county board has resolved the discrepancy. (Del. Atterbeary) Hearing 2/1 (Oppose) Bill passed as amended in the House on March 10.

- [Call to Action to Oppose House Bill 119](#)
- [Sample Letter for Email, voicemail, social media \(pdf\)](#) ([Word](#))
- [House Bill 119 - Reprint with House Committee Amendments](#)

Bill Highlights

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)

College & Career Readiness

[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 (Support)

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 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 (Support w/Amendments)

[SB 367/HB 984](#) – 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, etc. ; 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 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 (Support w/Amendments)

[HB 1219/SB 893](#) – Maryland Educator Shortage 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) House Hearing 3/1; Senate Hearing 3/7 (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 (Oppose)

[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 (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 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 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 (Oppose)

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) House Hearing 2/28; Hearing 2/22 (Support)

Special Education

HB 294/SB 926 – 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 (Support w/Amendments)

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessments

HB 99/SB 316 – 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/Sen. Brooks) House Hearing 2/1; Senate Hearing 3/1 (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. (Del. Atterbeary/Sen. Lam) House Hearing 2/1; Senate Hearing 2/8 (Oppose)

HB 880 - Education - Public Middle Schools - Course on Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction Requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum standards and county boards of education to develop and implement a curriculum for a course on the collateral consequences of a

criminal conviction for public middle school students in the State. (Delegate Conway) Hearing 3/01 (Oppose)

HB 960 - Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement Requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a unit of instruction on Asian American history in public schools in the State; requiring each county board of education to implement the Asian American history curriculum content standards, beginning in the 2024-2025 school year; requiring each county board to ensure that a unit of instruction on Asian American history is taught at least once during elementary school, once during middle school, and once in a history course required to graduate from high school; etc. (Delegate Valderrama) Hearing 3/1 (Oppose)

HB 1105 - Public Schools – Water Safety and Swimming Course – Established Requiring the State Department of Education to develop curriculum content for an elective course in water safety and swimming for public school students in grades 8 through 12; requiring, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, county boards of education to implement the water safety and swimming curriculum content for students in grades 8 through 12 in public middle and high schools in the county; and authorizing a public middle or high school to partner with a local parks and recreation facility for certain purposes. (Delegate Toles) Hearing 3/8 (Oppose)

HB 1110 - Education - Peace and Conflict Studies - High School Course Requiring the State Department of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a high school course on peace and conflict studies; requiring each county board of education to implement a course on peace and conflict studies in each public high school in the county beginning in the 2024-2025 school year; and requiring each public high school to hire a mediator to provide education and support to students and school personnel relating to conflict resolution and peaceful communications in resolving disputes. (Delegate Bhandari) Hearing 3/8 (Oppose)

HB 1202 - Public Schools - Curriculum and Instructional Materials Requiring the posting of curriculum and instructional materials used at public schools on the public school's website; and establishing requirements for the production and inspection of certain instructional materials referenced in certain curriculum. (Delegate Miller) Hearing 3/8 (Oppose)

HB 1241/SB 837 - Education - Curriculum - Study of the Holocaust (Educate to Stop the Hate Act) Requiring the State Department of Education 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. (Delegate Attar) (Oppose)

HB 1164 - Public Schools - Expanded American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation Requiring the State Board of Education, on or before December 1, 2023, to develop content standards for expanded American history; requiring each county board of education, in collaboration with the local school system, to update and implement certain curriculum guides for expanded American history; requiring each public school to include expanded American history in the social studies curriculum beginning in the 2024-2025 school year; etc. (Delegate Wilson) Hearing 3/8 (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 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 (No Position)

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 (Support w/Amendments)

[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 (Support w/Amendments)

[HB 1114](#) - Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property – Application Specifying that provisions of law prohibiting and penalizing certain disruptive and threatening behavior on certain school grounds and property do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend or students who commit offenses at another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program sponsored at that institution. (Delegate Ruth) Hearing 3/8 (Support)

School Safety

[HB 515](#) - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills and Trainings - 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 (Oppose)

Cybersecurity & Data Privacy

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)

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 w/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 235/HB 300 - School Buildings - Solar Technology - Solar Panels on Schools This bill requires local school systems to consider, for new schools constructed between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2034, whether to install solar panels on the roof of the new school. If a local school system elects not to install solar panels on the roof of a newly constructed school, it must provide an explanation to the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC). The bill clarifies the recipients and expands the requirements for a related annual report by IAC. SB 235 has been amended and passed in the Senate to include "an evaluation of the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems." The bill takes effect June 1, 2023. Fiscal Note assessment of impact on LEAs: "None. Local school systems already conduct the assessments required by the bill and can carry out any additional reporting requirements with existing budgeted resources." (Support w/Amendments)

SB 355/HB 900 - Occupational Safety and Health - Public Buildings - Indoor Air Quality This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, by October 31, 2025, to adopt a comprehensive indoor air quality standard for public buildings (generally meaning government and school buildings). The standard must include specified requirements for public employers and be developed in consultation with

the Secretary of the Environment, Secretary of Health, and Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. In developing the standard, the Commissioner must also establish a technical advisory committee to make recommendations, as specified. Fiscal Note assessment of impact on LEAs: "Local expenditures increase significantly beginning in fiscal 2026, to come into compliance with the air quality standards adopted by the MDL and to conduct annual building air quality assessments." (Sen. Beidle/Del. Kerr) Senate Hearing 2/23; House Hearing 3/9 (Oppose)

SB 360/HB 458 - Public School Construction - Grant Programs, Approvals, and Administration - Alterations This bill makes the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) an independent unit of State government and allows appointed members of IAC to be removed by their appointing authority for incompetence, misconduct, or failure to perform their duties. It also repeals the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) and the Aging Schools Program (ASP) beginning in FY 2027. The bill raises the cost thresholds for specified actions related to school construction that must be approved by the State Superintendent. Finally, it makes other technical and procedural changes related to the approval and funding of school construction projects in the State.

The bill provides that the State Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, must approve or disapprove (1) each plan or specification for the remodeling of a school building if the remodeling costs more than \$500,000 (up from \$350,000) and (2) a change order that costs more than \$50,000 (up from \$25,000) for the remodeling, restoration, or construction of a school building. The bill authorizes the State Superintendent's designee (in addition to the Superintendent) to approve various school construction activities in current law, including contracts for school construction projects. The bill takes effect July 1, 2023. (Sen. Guzzone/Del. J. Lewis) Senate Hearing 2/15/House Hearing 2/14 (Support w/Amendments/Opposing sunset of ASP and SSGP)

SB 614/HB 769 - Public Safety - Fire Dampers, Smoke Dampers, Combination Fire Smoke Dampers, and Smoke Control Systems This bill requires that each installed fire damper, smoke damper, combination fire smoke damper, or smoke control system (1) meet specified engineering practices and applicable standards and (2) be approved by the State Fire Marshal. Owners of buildings equipped with such dampers and systems must have the dampers inspected and tested, as specified, and must maintain inspection and testing reports. The State Fire Prevention Commission must adopt regulations governing the inspection and testing. The bill authorizes the State Fire Marshal to enforce the bill's provisions. (Sen. Brooks/Del. J. Long) Senate Hearing 2/21; House Hearing 2/28 (Oppose)

SB 835/HB 719 - 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) (Oppose)

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) 3/16 Hearing (Support w/Amendments)

HB 739 - Primary and Secondary Education - Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count - Alterations (Truancy Reduction Act of 2023) Altering the definition of "full-time equivalent enrollment" in the calculation for State education aid to include the average number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 on September 30, December 31, March 31, and the last day of the prior school year;

and applying the Act to the calculation of education funding for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2024. (Delegate Rose) Hearing 3/14 (Oppose)

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 (Oppose)