

IMMEDIATE CALL TO ACTION – March 8, 2023

MABE Urges All Boards and Board Members to Contact their Delegates and Senators in Annapolis to Voice Strong Opposition to House Bill 119

MABE is alarmed that the House Ways and Means Committee ADOPTED MAJOR AMENDMENTS to House Bill 119. As introduced, this bill was focused on health and sex education. This is no longer what this bill does. It goes much further. [Link to the bill text of House Bill 119 as amended in the House Ways and Means Committee](#)

Contact your Delegates and Senators NOW to tell them you oppose House Bill 119 because this bill would result in a total state takeover of local control over all curriculum frameworks, standards, and even instructional materials. This bill is passing in the House, so act NOW!

HB 119 is a radical change to Maryland educational policy that balances state and local control! The bill would mandate that local school systems follow every element of the policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools established by the State Board of Education.

HB 119 reaches into the boardroom and the classroom, limiting the ability of teachers to teach with any professional autonomy in their classrooms. The bill would mandate that “all curriculum guides, courses of study, resource materials and other teaching aids” shall be in accordance with the state policy and program of instruction adopted by the State Board.

HB 119 covers all subject areas, resulting a complete state takeover. The bill would result in the immediate state takeover of any local discretion or flexibility to develop and deliver instruction in every subject. The state has curriculum frameworks for Reading, Writing, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, History, Government, Physical Education, Health, Fine Arts, Financial Literacy, Environmental Literacy, and more.

HB 119 grants absolute authority to the State Superintendent to decide if a local school system is not following every detail of the state standards and then withhold millions of dollars in state funding. The bill would mandate that the State Superintendent enforce local compliance with these new state curriculum mandates by:

- *Notifying the local board of noncompliance, which is defined as “not following every element of the policy and guidelines established by the State Board;”*
- *Giving the local board only 30 days to alter the local curriculum;*
- *If the local corrective action is not taken within 30 days, requiring the Comptroller to withhold 10% of the annual state education funding budgeted for the school system; and*
- *After 90 days, another 10% of the annual state education funding is withheld if the local board has not altered its local curriculum.*
- *Withheld funding is only released if the State Superintendent determines the “discrepancy has been resolved.”*

Contact your elected officials NOW to urge them to oppose House Bill 119 and the total state takeover of local curriculum and instruction! [Link to How to Contact Your Members of the General Assembly to Oppose HB 119](#)