



# 2023 SESSION SUMMARY

Education Funding & Policy Highlights

# 2023 Session Highlights

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## *Overview of the 2023 Session*

The 2023 legislative session saw the introduction of 1,305 House bills and 979 Senate bills, reflecting the priorities of the newly elected Governor, Wes Moore, a substantial surplus of state funding, and the priorities of returning and newly elected Delegates and Senators.

MABE monitored nearly 400 bills during the 2023 session and 100 of these became new laws, with many having significant impacts on public education funding and policy. All [MABE's bill tracking report and testimony](#) is available on the MABE website.

During the legislative session, MABE's bill testimony reflects the association's resolutions as annually updated and adopted by the full membership, and legislative priorities and positions as adopted by the Legislative Committee. MABE's [Legislative Positions & Priorities for the 2023 Session](#) include position statements on major policy areas.

For more information on the 2023 session see the Dept. of Legislative Services' [90 Day Report](#).



# *Education Funding in the FY 2024 Budget*

**HB 200**

## **Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2024)**

Increases total State aid to public schools to \$8.7 billion in FY 2024, an increase of \$704.9 million over FY 2023, and includes \$7.9 billion in direct aid for education and \$768.6 million in retirement payments.

Provides \$34.5 million in foundation special hold harmless grants, preventing decreases in State education aid for any local school system, including \$30.4 million for Baltimore City and \$4.1 million for Allegany County.

Increases Compensatory education funding by \$390.9 million due mostly to a 33.6% increase in free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) student enrollment which derives from using Medicaid eligibility data for the first time.

## Education Funding

<u>Program</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Foundation Aid	\$3,659,452,582	\$3,768,324,327	\$108,871,745
Foundation – Special Grants	0	34,508,079	34,508,079
Geographic Cost of Education Index	157,909,651	0	-157,909,651
Comparable Wage Index	0	155,298,837	155,298,837
Compensatory Education	1,295,201,860	1,686,097,760	390,895,900
Student Transportation – Regular	308,751,983	335,817,268	27,065,285
Student Transportation – Special Education	27,213,000	27,547,000	334,000
Special Education – Formula	401,310,445	465,973,318	64,662,873
Special Education – Nonpublic Placements	141,413,212	148,613,212	7,200,000
Special Education – Infants and Toddlers	14,673,430	15,815,593	1,142,163
English Language Learners Grant	422,465,014	473,518,248	51,053,234

## *Education Funding*

Guaranteed Tax Base	45,783,860	56,783,213	10,999,353
Prekindergarten Expansion Program	26,644,000	26,644,000	0
School Safety Grants	20,600,000	23,600,000	3,000,000
Blueprint – Concentration of Poverty	190,286,426	227,257,191	36,970,765
Blueprint – Transitional Supplemental Instruction	49,951,813	51,323,685	1,371,872
Blueprint – Transition Grants	57,688,465	57,688,465	0
Blueprint – Full Day PreKindergarten	144,063,352	99,575,069	-44,488,283
Blueprint – College and Career Readiness	18,669,966	19,888,097	1,218,131
Blueprint – Education Effort Index	125,673,114	87,978,308	-37,694,806
Blueprint – Career Ladder	9,033,505	9,534,910	501,405
Blueprint – Coordinators	0	2,000,000	2,000,000
Food Service	15,796,664	20,296,664	4,500,000
<b>Total Primary and Secondary Education</b>	<b>\$7,230,574,878</b>	<b>\$7,891,565,357</b>	<b>\$660,990,479</b>

## *Education Funding*

**Highlights:** The use of Medicaid data to identify students whose families are eligible for free and reduced price meals and therefore Compensatory Education funding resulted in dramatic increases state aid for many school systems.

The surplus enabled the setting aside of an additional \$400 million, for a total of \$900 million reserved for future Blueprint spending.

The Budget includes \$150,000 grants to support Blueprint Coordinator salaries and benefits.

**Challenges:** School systems no longer benefit from additional funding based on pre-pandemic enrollment counts. Prekindergarten funding saw a dramatic funding reduction.

Due to the repeal the Maintenance of Effort escalator, counties are no longer mandated to provide up to 2.5% increases in local funding above the minimum maintenance of effort amount based on their level of education spending relative to all other local governments.

# *School Construction in the Capital Budget*

HB 201

## **Creation of a State Debt – Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2023**

Provides \$1.092 billion for school construction programs including \$3.5 million for nonpublic schools. The largest funded program is the traditional Public School Construction Program that receives \$485 million, comprised of \$268.5 million of special funds from the Fiscal Responsibility Fund and \$216.5 million of general funds. The largest fund source is revenue bonds with \$447.2 million estimated to be issued by the Maryland Stadium Authority as authorized by the Built to Learn Act, which is in addition to the approximately \$700 million approved in fiscal 2022. This reflects a revised bond issuance total for this program of approximately \$1.7 billion, subject to market conditions. The legislature also reallocated \$90 million for the Healthy School Facility Fund from GO bonds to general funds.



## *School Construction in the Capital Budget*

<u>Program</u>	<u>GO Bonds</u>	<u>Revenue Bonds</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public School Construction Program	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$216.5	\$268.5	\$485.0
Built to Learn Act	0.0	447.2	0.0	0.0	447.2
Healthy School Facility Fund	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0	90.0
Supplemental Capital Grant	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	40.0
Revolving Loan Program	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	20.0
Aging Schools Program	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1
Nonpublic Aging Schools Program	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9.6</b>	<b>\$447.2</b>	<b>\$366.5</b>	<b>\$268.5</b>	<b>\$1,091.8</b>

# *Blueprint Legislation*

HB 770

## **Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Various Policies and Prekindergarten Enrollment and Funding - Alterations**

Alters the definition of “Tier I child” within the Publicly Funded Full-Day Prekindergarten aid program to include additional categories of children in FY 23 and 24. Includes these children in the PreK enrollment count for the purpose of determining the program amount to be funded by state and local governments in FY 23 and 24. Requires assistant principals on level three of the career ladder to participate in classroom activity involving direct interactions with students for at least 20% of their working hours. Takes effect immediately after the Governor’s signature.

- MABE supported this bill as introduced to ensure that all students intended to benefit from high quality free PreK would be able to do so with the support of clearly defined state and local funding.

# College & Career Readiness

SB 551

## **Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)**

Reforms the Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) and transfers both the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism and the Maryland Corps Program to DSCI. Within the Maryland Corps Program, the bill creates two pathways and funds for service placements for eligible youth and young adults.

The Young Adult Pathway provides service placements to eligible young adults as an additional option to immediately pursuing postsecondary education or career and technical training (\$15 per hour and 30-hour per week work requirements).

The MD Service Year Option Pathway is also designed to equip program participants with professional development, mentoring, job training, financial literacy skills, and other supports. Takes effect, as an emergency bill, immediately upon the Governor's signature.

## *College & Career Readiness*

HB 689

### **Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Program - High School Diplomas**

Requires that each Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) student receive a high school diploma immediately following completion of high school graduation requirements. Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish minimum requirements for issuing certificates and diplomas. Local school systems may establish graduation requirements beyond the ones established by SBE. SBE must establish high school curriculum, college and career readiness standards, and graduation requirements for all public schools. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

## *College & Career Readiness*

HB 229

### **Employment for Minors - Opportunities for Work**

Requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to release the name, home address, and telephone number of a minor who is at least 16 years old and has a work permit to various organizations who request this information and have registered with the Maryland Department of Labor. Allows information to be shared with educational programs and institutions. Takes effect October 1, 2023.

# *Teacher Shortage*

**HB 1219**

## **Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act of 2023**

This Administration bill establishes the Teacher Development and Retention Program as a pilot program to encourage college students to pursue teaching careers and makes additional changes related to the recruitment and retention of teachers, including prekindergarten teachers and aides, and school-based mental health professionals. Defers new PreK educator requirements to the 2027-2028 school year.

MSDE must develop an educator recruitment, retention, and diversity dashboard, with data provided by local school systems. The bill takes effect July 1, 2023; the Teacher Development and Retention Program terminates June 30, 2029.

# *Student Aid Data Reporting*

SB 127

## **Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student FAFSA Data - Reporting Requirement**

Repeals the reporting requirements of FAFSA data by local boards of education. Requires the MLDS Center to report specified student FAFSA data to specialized committees of the General Assembly by December 15 of each year. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

- MABE supported this bill's repeal of the school system reporting requirements in place since 2021, and the shift to utilizing the services of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center to gather and report the data already collected by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

# *Employee Relations*

**HB 984**

## **Public Employee Relations Act**

Consolidates the State Labor Relations Board (SLRB), the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board (SHELRB), and the Public School Labor Relations Board (PSLRB) into the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB). The PERB will be staffed by deputy directors for executive branch, higher education, and public school labor relations; and comprised of 5 members: 2 recommended by employers, 2 by unions, and the chair selected by the Governor. Substantially restructures the State's rules, procedures, processes, rights, and prohibitions regarding collective bargaining by public employees. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

- MABE succeeded in securing amendments to remove expanded binding arbitration provisions, preserve the existing scope of bargaining law to ensure no effect on class size and school calendar being illegal subjects of bargaining, and preserve the value of the precedents set in prior PSLRB opinions in school system cases.



# *Employee Relations*

SB 828

## **Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications**

This bill modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program by altering key administrative deadlines, technical definitions, and components of the program's administration. The start dates for required contributions and benefit payments are delayed by one year to October 1, 2024 (employer/employee contributions), and January 1, 2026 (benefits payments). Takes effect June 1, 2023.

- MABE, joined by MACo and MML, and in alignment with the Maryland Dept. of Labor, succeeded in securing amendments to extend implementation deadlines. MABE highlighted the need for final regulations governing the employer exemption option (now due by Jan. 1, 2024), and additional time to allow school systems to develop or modify benefits plans and for local budget planning.

# *Employee Relations*

**SB 555**

## **Fair Wage Act of 2023**

Accelerates the increase in the State minimum wage rate for all employers to \$15.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2024. Repeals specified provider rate increases in FY 25 and 26. Requires the Governor to include additional funding in the amount of a 4 percent increase in FY 25 and 26. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

# *Sign Language Interpreter Licensing*

HB 260/  
SB 346

## **Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act**

Establishes a new state license and regulatory framework for sign language interpreters. Creates the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters in the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH). Beginning January 1, 2025, an individual must be licensed by the board before providing sign language interpretation services, including in legal, health, behavioral health, and school settings, with limited exceptions. The unlicensed practice of sign language interpretation is a misdemeanor subject to a fine of \$500-\$1000 and 90 days in jail. A violator may be liable to a person receiving or witnessing unlicensed services for up to \$1000 and attorney's fees.

A provisional licensee, who has passed a nationally or regionally recognized exam, may provide services for up to five years, but may not provide services in a legal, medical, or behavioral health setting.

**MABE** 

# Student Health

HB 290

## Public Health - Dental Services - Access

Requires local boards of education, family childcare homes, large family childcare homes, and childcare centers to provide notice to the parent or guardian of an enrolled child of the clinical need for the child to receive a dental screening within six months before the child turns specified ages (6, 9, and 12 for parents and guardians of children in public schools, and 18 months, 3, and 6 for children in childcare). Notice must be provided within six months before each birthday. The new law includes several other provisions not directly affecting local school systems. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

- MABE secured an amendment removing the mandate that schools collect student dental screening records.

## *Student Health*

HB 322

### **Public Health - Home- and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth**

Requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to expand access to and provide reimbursement for specified wraparound, intensive in-home, and case management services for children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families, under the 1915(i) Intensive Behavioral Health Services for Children, Youth, and Families Program. Takes effect October 1, 2023.

# *School Meals and Nutrition*

SB 559

## **Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Annual Appropriation**

Requires the Governor to include \$12,050,000 for the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) In-Classroom Breakfast Program. Provides most local school systems with an additional \$4.5 million for MMFA. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

- MABE supported the increase in the mandated appropriation to ensure adequate funding for the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program.

# *School Meals and Nutrition*

HB 78

## **Public Schools - Anaphylactic Food Allergies - Guidelines**

As enacted into law, this bill requires MSDE and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to jointly update the Maryland State Health Services Guidelines by August 1, 2023, to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents (specifically major food allergens) in classrooms and common areas. Requires each local board of education to make a good faith effort to adopt and implement the updated guidelines before the 2023-2024 school year but must do so before the 2024-2025 school year. Requires each public school to develop a system to disclose the foods served in the school and the major allergens contained in them. Takes effect June 1, 2023.

- MABE secured an amendment to clarify that school systems would be required to update their local policies and adopt any new procedures only after the state school health service guidelines have been updated.

# *Special Education*

HB 1237

## **Special Education - Judicial Actions - Attorney's Fees and Related Costs**

Authorizes a court to award reasonable attorney's fees and related costs, including expert witness fees and costs, to the parent of a child with a disability, if the parent prevails in a proceeding 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. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

- MABE opposed this bill as imposing a cost burden on local school systems beyond the requirement of federal special education law, which already allows parents to recoup attorneys fees but not expert witness fees.



# *Nonpublic Special Education Schools*

HB 448

## **Nonpublic Education - Placements of Children With Disabilities - Teacher Salaries (Teacher Pay Parity Act)**

Requires the State and local governments to share the costs of paying increased salaries of teachers at nonpublic special education schools, with increases to be based on local school salaries and phased in over 3 years. If the current amount of state and local funding is insufficient to close pay gaps, the state/local cost share for additional costs is the same 70/30 split for excess costs under current law. MSDE must adopt regulations to carry out the new law. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

- MABE supported the bill as introduced with amendments highlighting the concern for any unfunded mandate on local school systems to contribute to private school salaries. MABE secured amendments to ensure that the bill imposes no cost on school systems and the mandated increased costs for local governments will have no effect on maintenance of effort.

# School Construction

HB 458

## **Public School Construction - Programs, Approvals, and Administration - Alterations**

Makes the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) an independent unit of state government. It also repeals the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) and the Aging Schools Program (ASP) beginning in FY 2027. Requires local school reports on the feasibility and final decisions on using wind, solar, geothermal or other alternative energy systems. Increases from \$350,000 to \$1 million the amount of a school project requiring state approval. Increases funding for the Prince George's County Board of Education's public-private partnership (P3) to construct public schools. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

- MABE opposed the sunseting of the Aging Schools Program and School Safety Grants. This provision does not take effect until June 30, 2026, allowing for future advocacy.

# *School Construction and Procurement*

HB 261

## **Eligible Projects - Procurement of Construction Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act)**

Requires the Department of General Services (DGS), by January 1, 2026, to establish a maximum acceptable global warming potential (GWP) for each category of cement or concrete mixture used in the construction of eligible public projects, which are defined as high performance buildings under section 3-602.1 of the State Finance and Procurement Article. Section 5-312 of the Education Article cross-references section 3-602.1 and applies high performance building standards to all new schools that receive any state funding built after 2009.

# *School Construction and Procurement*

**HB 543**

## **State Procurement - Small Procurement - Definition**

Raises the maximum dollar value threshold for most “small procurements” from \$50,000 to \$100,000. This bill has the effect of also increasing the small procurement threshold for school systems, under section 5-112 of the education article. § 5-112 is the procurement law that requires school systems to advertise bids for certain school supplies and equipment, with exceptions, in a newspaper or other medium accessible to the public.

Note: § 5-112 still refers to a \$25,000 threshold but this section cross-references § 13-109(a) of the State Finance and Procurement Article (which was previously amended to \$50,000 and is now \$100,000).

Takes effect October 1, 2023.

## *Electric Vehicle Infrastructure*

HB 550

### **Maryland Energy Administration – Energy Programs – Modifications (Clean Transportation and Energy Act)**

In addition to many other provisions, this bill provides limited rebates for the costs of acquiring and installing electrical vehicle recharging equipment incurred by local school systems and other public and private entities. (Rebate amount: the lesser of 50% of the costs and \$5,000). Takes effect July 1, 2023.

# *Nonpublic Student Transportation*

HB 486

## **Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation**

Establishes a task force to study nonpublic student bus transportation. The task force is to be staffed by MSDE. Encourages local boards of education to provide information to the task force regarding nonpublic school student busing programs in the county and other programs for the transportation of students in special education placements. Takes effect July 1, 2023 and terminates June 30, 2024.

# Student & School Safety

HB 226

## **Criminal Law - Person in a Position of Authority - Sexual Offenses With a Minor**

Alters the definition of a “person in a position of authority” under the fourth-degree sexual offense statute. The bill also expands the application of the fourth-degree sexual offense statute to include a person who is:

- At least age 21;
  - works for remuneration or as a volunteer for (1) a public or private preschool, elementary school, or secondary school or (2) a “program”; and
  - exercises supervision over or works or interacts with one or more minors who attend the school or participate in the program.
- Takes effect October 1, 2023
- MABE supported the law’s criminalization of sexual activity between minors and instructors not prohibited under other provisions of state law; provisions already applying to public schools.

## *Liability for Victims of Abuse*

HB 1

### **Civil Actions - Child Sexual Abuse - Definition, Damages, and Statute of Limitations (The Child Victims Act of 2023)**

Removes any statute of limitations for actions for damages arising out of an alleged incident of sexual abuse that occurred while the victim was a minor. The bill applies retroactively to revive any action that was barred by the statute of limitations applicable before October 1, 2023. With respect to these claims, the new law increases the liability cap and minimum comprehensive liability coverage for local boards to \$890,000.



# *Virtual Learning*

SB 610

## **Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education**

Provides new definitions and standards for the short-term use of virtual learning during weather emergencies, the operation of permanent virtual schools established by local boards with State Board approval, and plans for long-term shifts to virtual learning as occurred during the pandemic.

Requires that virtual school teachers be members of the local bargaining unit and that virtual schools not be operated by for profit entities, with a two-year extension for such a virtual school on the Eastern Shore. MSDE must convene a stakeholder group to study next steps in virtual education and technology in the classroom. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

# *Broadband Expansion*

HB 551

## **Office of Statewide Broadband - Study of Broadband Expansion Incentives**

Requires the Office of Statewide Broadband (OSB) within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to study and make recommendations regarding:

- how the State can incentivize broadband service providers to expand broadband infrastructure to communities that are unserved or underserved, including through either regulatory or financial incentives;
- how the State can ensure that federal broadband infrastructure grants are deployed to best serve the needs of Marylanders; and
- how other states have encouraged private investment in broadband networks and how the State might implement similar measures.

Takes effect July 1, 2023.

# Cybersecurity

SB 801

## **Economic Development - Cybersecurity - Cyber Maryland Program**

Establishes a Cyber Maryland Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to:

- create a talent pipeline that materially reduces workforce vacancies by July 1, 2026;
- serve as a one-stop shop for employers to leverage cyber workforce development and inform public and private cybersecurity training programs;
- build the most advanced local and State information technology (IT) workforce in the nation, which, to the maximum extent possible, reflects the racial, gender, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State; and
- support the efforts of the Department of Information Technology to improve the State government's cybersecurity posture, including State agencies, local government units, in school systems, and critical infrastructure.

Takes effect July 1, 2023.

# *Public Information Act*

HB 636

## **Public Information Act - Inspection of E-Mail Addresses and Telephone Numbers**

This bill alters the definition of “personal information” under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) to include an individual’s email address. Makes other changes under PIA that establish when a custodian is prohibited from allowing, or authorized to allow, the inspection of records related to email addresses and telephone numbers

Requires a records custodian to deny inspection of a school district record about a student’s telephone number and personal email address. This expanded prohibition also generally applies to public employees. Takes effect October 1, 2023.

# *Public Information Act*

HB 1051

## **Public Information Act - Decisions of the State Public Information Act Compliance Board - Appeals**

Authorizes an applicant to appeal a decision by the State Public Information Act Compliance Board. Specifies that for certain complaints involving allegations that an applicant's request or pattern of request is frivolous, vexatious, or in bad faith, an appeal must be filed in circuit court for the county where the applicant resides or has a principal place of business. Takes effect October 1, 2023.

# *Civil Rights and Discrimination*

HB 16

## **Primary and Secondary Education – Title IX – Notice (Hear Our Voices Act)**

Requires each public school to inform students, faculty, staff, and parents regarding:

- who serves as the Title IX coordinator for the school;
- the process in place for filing a sexual misconduct complaint;
- and the support measures in place for an individual who files and misconduct complaint and how to access the support measures.

Takes effect July 1, 2023.

# *Civil Rights and Discrimination*

**SB 841**

## **Local School Systems - Student Field Trips - Funding**

Requires the Governor to include \$500,000 in the annual budget bill for MSDE to provide grants to local school systems for expenses related to student field trips to museums of cultural import, including:

- (1) the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum;
- (2) the National Museum of African American History and Culture;
- (3) the Jewish Museum of Maryland; and
- (4) the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.

Requires MSDE to submit a report to the General Assembly by October 1 of each year which details the distribution and use of grant funding from the previous fiscal year. Takes effect July 1, 2023.

# *Civil Rights and Discrimination*

SB 540

## **Human Relations - Civil Rights Enforcement - Powers of the Attorney General**

As enacted into law, this bill generally:

- grants the Attorney General the power to investigate, prosecute, and remediate any conduct that constitutes a civil rights violation;
- establishes related procedures and specified remedies for violations;
- requires coordination with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR); and
- establishes the Civil Rights Enforcement Fund.

Takes effect October 1, 2023.



# *Cannabis Reform & Dispensary Location*

HB 556/  
SB 516

## **Cannabis Reform**

Renames/creates the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) and expands its duties to include the regulation of cannabis. Creates a Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Division to oversee the regulation of adult-use cannabis, including medical cannabis. Establishes a licensing framework and graduated sales and use tax applicable to the sale of adult-use cannabis. Takes effect, as an emergency bill, immediately upon the Governor's signature.

- Generally, a dispensary may not locate within 500 feet of: a pre-existing primary or secondary school in the state, or a licensed childcare center or registered family childcare home; or a playground, recreation center, library, or public park.
- However, a local government may reduce these distances.

# *Gun Control*

HB 824

## **Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun**

Modifies and expands the existing prohibition on access to a firearm by an unsupervised child (defined as an individual younger than age 16) by establishing that a person may not store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knew or reasonably should have known that a prohibited person or an unsupervised minor (defined in existing statute as an individual younger than age 18) would gain access to the firearm. Takes effect October 1, 2023.

# *Gun Control*

SB 1

## **Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)**

Modifies and expands the requirements and procedures relating to the issuance and renewal of a handgun permit. Prohibits, with exceptions, a person from wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm in certain special purpose areas, including:

- A building owned or leased by a unit of state or local government;
- Stadiums and other areas used for athletic events; and
- Numerous other public and private facilities, activities, and areas.

Takes effect October 1, 2023. Note: the bill does not affect the current law prohibiting a person from wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun, whether concealed or open, on public school property.

## *Other Bills that Passed*

**HB 185**

**Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition**

**HB 206**

**Early Childhood Education - Prekindergarten Programs - Montessori Schools and Programs**

**HB 320**

**Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Definition of Student Data - Alteration**

**HB 525**

**Outdoor Preschool License Pilot Program - Establishment**

**SB 922**

**Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund - Alteration**

## *Local Bills that Passed*

**HB 492**

**Anne Arundel County - School Vehicles - Duration of Operation**

**HB 153/  
SB 31**

**Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Student Members and Task Force to Study Compensation and Student Members**

**HB 175**

**Baltimore County Board of Education - Student Member - Voting and Training**

**HB 210**

**Baltimore County - Board of Education - Member Elections and Appointments**

**SB 348**

**Baltimore County - School Board Nominating Commission - Vacancy Procedures**

## *Local Bills that Passed*

SB 491

**Charles County - Task Force to Study School Bus Operator Contracts and Wages**

HB 402/  
SB 402

**Kent County - Board of Education - Student Member**

HB 437

**Prince George's County Public Schools - Office of Integrity and Compliance - Establishment PG 501-23**

HB 656/  
SB 302

**Talbot County - Board of Education - Election of Officers**

## *Priority Bills that FAILED to Pass*

HB 119

County Boards of Education - Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study - Requirements

Would have required that all of the curriculum guides, courses of study, resource material, and other teaching aids prepared by local school systems must be in accordance with the policy and guidelines for the program of instruction in public schools adopted by the State Board of Education. If the State Superintendent of Schools determined that a local board is not following every element of the state policy and guidelines or is authorizing a student to opt-out of a course of instruction in a manner not approved, the State Superintendent must notify the local board of education. If the local board does not resolve the discrepancy within 30 days, 10% of the funds budgeted by the State for the current fiscal year must be withheld. If the discrepancy was not resolved within 90 days, an additional 10% would be withheld. The State Comptroller could only release the funds if the State Superintendent determined that the local board had resolved the discrepancy.

## *Priority Bills that FAILED to Pass*

HB 294

County Boards of Education - Due Process Proceedings for Children With Disabilities - Burden of Proof

Would have placed 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.



## *Priority Bills that FAILED to Pass*

HB 515

Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements

Would have prohibited active shooter drills or trainings in schools from including specified activities that may be traumatic for students or school personnel; and required local school systems to:

- notify parents in advance of active shooter drills or trainings in schools;
- provide mental health follow-up to students and school personnel after an active shooter drill or training; and
- collect data on the effectiveness and psychological impact of the drills or trainings and report the data to the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) for further analysis.

## *Other Curriculum Bills that Failed to Pass*

HB 99  
SB 316

Education – Public High Schools – Financial Literacy Curriculum

HB 960

Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

HB 1202

Public Schools - Curriculum and Instructional Materials

HB 1241  
SB 837

Education - Curriculum - Study of the Holocaust (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

SB 149

Education - Curriculum - Unit of Instruction on September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks

SB 238

Public High Schools – Financial Literacy – Curriculum, Graduation Requirement, and Professional Development

# *2023 Session Resources*

## MABE ADVOCACY CENTER

MABE's advocacy center includes all MABE testimony and other information pertaining to the 2023 legislative session.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE

The Department of Legislative Services has published its 90-Day Report on the 2023 Session.

## MABE BILL REPORT

MABE's Bill Tracker provides the status and a link to all 387 bills tracked by MABE in 2023.

# *Thanks!*



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