

BILL: Senate Bill 879
TITLE: Job Help for All
DATE: March 28, 2023
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 879 and the proposal to extend in perpetuity to mandate for local school systems to provide a \$62 per pupil amount of funding to local workforce development boards for each enrolled elementary, middle, and high school student.

Senate Bill 879 would extend the mandate contained in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, codified as a mandated \$62 per pupil allocation for 2 fiscal years, not extending beyond FY 2026. In this way, the bill would significantly increase the cost and expand the scope of the local school system funding obligation to local workforce development boards. MABE has supported legislation in the 2023 legislative session to expand the scope of the Blueprint, but in areas addressing the appropriate definitions of educators eligible for pay increases based on National Board Certification status or falling outside the definition of classroom teacher. Similarly, MABE has pursued support for legislation to address issues with prekindergarten funding as defined and provided by the Blueprint. In this context, MABE believes a comprehensive study and development of recommendations for improvements to the Blueprint is warranted. Clearly, such a study could include analysis of the workforce development issues presented in Senate Bill 879.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 879.