

BILL: House Bill 537
TITLE: Income Tax - Credit for Nonpublic School Student Bus Transportation Expenses
DATE: February 8, 2024
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 537 to establish a new tax credit for costs associated with families transporting their students to and from nonpublic schools.

MABE supports parental choice among the many public and nonpublic schools and home instruction options available in the State. Maryland enjoys a wide array of educational opportunities for all of its students, including an outstanding public education system. Within the public school system, charter schools opportunities continue to grow. Outside the public schools, opportunities include parochial and non-sectarian private schools as well as home instruction.

Local boards of education appreciate the important role that this mix of public and non-public schools plays throughout the state and in local communities. However, MABE believes that legislation goes too far when it proposes to create a state funded program, including tax credit programs, to support programs and services for nonpublic schools. Therefore, MABE opposes House Bill 537 because it would inappropriately divert state revenues in support of new tax credit program for families of students attending nonpublic schools.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 537.