



## **SB564 EDUCATION - HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE OR HOMELESS YOUTH**

February 18, 2020

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **SB564 Education - High School Graduation Requirements - Students in Foster Care or Homeless Youth** with amendments. This bill requires a local board of education to waive all high school graduation requirements, including required coursework, established by the local board that are in addition to the high school graduation requirements established by the State Board of Education for a student in foster care or who is a homeless youth, if the student transfers schools while in grades 11 or 12, as specified. However, the local board of education may not waive the requirements if the local board makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the local high school graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school while the student remains eligible for foster care benefits.

This bill largely aligns with COMAR requirements for seniors who transfer during the second semester. However, the legislation would provide the same benefits for our 11th and 12th grade students who are homeless or in foster care. AACPS already provides waivers for students in certain situations, including those in homeless and foster care because their situations are considered a hardship. While we support this legislation, we do request that it be amended to remove language regarding transfers within the same school system.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report with the proposed amendments on SB564.