



**HB617 PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS - MEDICAL CANNABIS - POLICY FOR  
ADMINISTRATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS AND EVENTS**

February 19, 2020

HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**OPPOSE**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB617 Public and Nonpublic Schools - Medical Cannabis - Policy for Administration During School Hours and Events**. This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission to jointly develop guidelines for public schools on the administration of medical cannabis during school hours, school-sponsored after-school activities, and on a school bus to students who are qualifying patients. By December 1, 2020, MSDE and the commission must develop the guidelines, provide specified technical assistance to schools, develop a process to monitor the implementation of the guidelines.

AACPS has concerns with the mandate in the bill requiring school systems to have a policy on the administration of medical cannabis because cannabis is still illegal under federal law and considered a Schedule I drug with no exceptions made for medical cannabis. By requiring the adoption of a written policy regarding the administration of medical cannabis, SB604 puts local school systems at risk of federal scrutiny and at risk of a potential loss of federal funding. Implementation of this bill would also be a violation of current State law which prohibits the manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, and possession of controlled dangerous substances (defined as “a drug or substance listed in Schedule I through Schedule V”) on a school bus or school property.

We also have concerns about the potential liability issues for school nurses and school health room staff.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB617.