



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1546  
TITLE: Education - Reportable Offenses - Alterations  
DATE: 2/27/2020  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Judiciary  
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1546.

This bill significantly alters key elements of the current law on arrest for reportable offense, Article - Education, Section 7-303, and if passed, this will significantly impact school safety.

It appears that a main notification piece of law enforcement notifying the local superintendent within 24 hours of an arrest for a reportable offense or as soon as practicable has been removed. Without this notification requirement schools will not be able to comply with creating needed educational programing and creation of safety plans as addressed in the below law.

Under this bill, the States Attorney may make notification of an arrest and charges for a reportable offense, but there is no guarantee that they will make such notification as this is optional.

With the elimination of law enforcement notification, the schools are placed in an unsafe position as they can have a student in their building without knowledge that the student has been arrested for a crime of violence. This would not protect a student victim of a crime of violence committed by a fellow student in the same school that has been arrested for such a crime of violence. There would not be an opportunity to develop a safety plan for the student victim and the arrested student.

This bill also appears to have eliminated other key provisions of the current law that would also impact school safety.

For these reasons, the Board **opposes** this legislation and urges an unfavorable report.