

STEPHANIE SMITH  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

Ways and Means Committee  
Education Subcommittee

House Chair  
Baltimore City Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 316  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3486 • 301-858-3486  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3486  
Stephanie.Smith@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB1194- Public Schools- Fees for Summer School Courses- Prohibition**

**Hearing: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Chairwoman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and the Members of the Ways and Means Committee,**

HB1194 would prohibit a local school system from charging a student a fee for enrollment in a summer school course if:

- The student attends a school in the local school district,
- If credit for the course is required for graduation,
- If the student previously took the course, but did not successfully complete or receive credit.

Maryland has a constitutional mandate to provide a free system out of public schools. Charging summer school fees for core courses is a conflict with that mandate. A student's ability to successfully complete high school- on time- should not be hindered by the cost of summer school. For students who receive free and reduced meals (FARMS) from their local school systems, even reduced summer school fees can be expensive. Furthermore, most Maryland school districts require full payment before a student can even register for a summer course.

This is a straightforward bill that seeks to give every Maryland student, regardless of income, the support needed to successfully graduate high school and then complete the next level of education/training. Summer school fee scale range from free to hundreds of dollars per course. This bill ensures every Maryland student has the education access they need and deserve.

Let's ensure cost does not become a barrier to students successfully completing high school on time. I urge you to vote favorably on HB 1194.

Respectfully,  
Stephanie Smith