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Patrick Moran – President

**SB712 – State Board of Education –
Membership Educational Support and Administrator Members
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 21, 2025**

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 strongly supports Senate Bill 712. Senate Bill 712 would alter the composition of the State Board of Education to include an educational support professional who is actively working in a public school as a noncertificated, nonsupervisory, public school employee. Under the bill, the Governor would appoint the educational support member, who received the highest number of votes after an election by education support professionals in the state.

AFSCME Council 3 represents approximately 45,000 public service employees at the state, county, and municipal levels of government across Maryland. Our union is proud to represent education support professionals across the state who work for Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore County Public Schools, Allegany County Public Schools, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Howard County Public Schools, Harford County Public Schools, Carroll County Public Schools, and Charles County Public Schools. AFSCME members are providing critical services that enable the operation of our public schools every day including bus transportation, food service, custodial service, administrative, clerical, and IT support, building and grounds maintenance, and more.

Despite the critical role that education support professionals play in our public education system, often times they are overlooked and forgotten when policy decisions are made that require their dedicated service to making policy decisions happen. Students, families, certificated staff, and our schools rely on education support professionals every day, yet often our members do not feel seen or heard.

Passing Senate Bill 712 would send a strong signal to every education support professional across the state of Maryland that their perspective, insight, and voice matters, that their labor is valued, and that they have meaningful contributions to offer in the improvement of our public education system. A State Board of Education that is reflective of the individuals who make our public education system happen is necessary to formulate a fully informed decision-making environment that promotes the best policies possible for all who have a stake in the success of our public education system.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 712.