

TO: House Committee to Ways and Means

BILL: House Bill (HB) 1025 Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - NASDTEC Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)

DATE: March 03, 2025

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board of Education support House Bill (HB) 1025 Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - NASDTEC Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act).

The State Board and MSDE are dedicated to ensuring the safety of Maryland students. HB 1025 requires Maryland local education agencies to become members of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) and use the NASDTEC Educator Identification Clearinghouse to screen employees. The Educator Identification Clearinghouse is a national database that provides a mechanism for licensing agencies to exchange names of educators whose certificates, licenses, or similar credentials authorizing them to engage in school professions have been denied, revoked, suspended, surrendered, or otherwise adversely acted upon.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is a state member of the NASDTEC. MSDE relies on the Educator Identification Clearinghouse to identify applicants for educator licensure who have disciplinary action taken against their license in a member state. It is a critical tool that ensures individuals who are not eligible for licensure based on action taken in another state are not provided with a Maryland educator license. In Maryland, each local education agency has licensure partners who are employed by the county board and are trained by MSDE to process licensure applications. It is critical that each local education agency access the Educator Identification Clearinghouse when recruiting employees to ensure that those who have had action taken in another state are investigated before receiving an offer of employment.

HB1025 will have a minimal fiscal impact on some local education agencies (LEAs). Maryland LEAs that are not currently associate members of NASDTEC will be required to pay for an associate membership and access to the Clearinghouse. The cost structure is as follows:

# FTE Teachers	Membership Fee	Subscription Fee	TOTAL
< 300	500	100	\$600
300 - 599	500	200	\$700
600 - 999	500	300	\$800
1000 - 1999	500	400	\$900
2000 - 2999	500	500	\$1,000
3000 - 3999	500	600	\$1,100
4000 -9,999	500	700	\$1,200
>9,999	500	.12 per FTE teacher	

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 1025**. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne (Executive Director of Government Affairs), at akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov for any additional information.