

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Opposition to  
House Bill 1317  
County Superintendents – Contracts – Required Provisions  
(Superintendent Buyout Limit)**

**March 5, 2025**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners is concerned about the introduced legislation as removing the Baltimore City School Board’s specific rights to contract directly with its CEO.

This legislation should not apply to Baltimore City as there is specific sections in the law that relate to the school board’s hiring and termination of the CEO. The law specifically allows the Baltimore City School Board to contract directly with the CEO without any other approvals and the contract dictates payouts upon termination (the only district in the State with this current authority).

Upon termination of the CEO should this law go into effect and apply to Baltimore City, the Board could potentially owe not only the salary of the CEO multiplied by whatever amount of years is left, plus health benefits which are more costly because the CEO would not be an employee and those benefits cost more on the open market. Additionally, the CEO would be entitled (under the current contract) leave balances (sick, vacation, personal). The Board works with counsel to ensure that the CEO’s contract is fair to the CEO as well as the school board. The legislature should not step into a contractual relationship that the school board has with the CEO, as is allowed by current law.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 1317 and urges an unfavorable report.

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