



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 154 Open Meetings Act - County Boards of Education - Enhanced Requirements (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn President

Date: February 5, 2026

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active citizen participation and requires that governmental bodies protect citizens' right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. This has been a principle of the League since our founding in 1920.

This legislation requires each local board of education and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to make publicly available on its website the agenda and minutes of each meeting as well as a live video stream of each portion of a meeting held in open session. Fortunately, all these entities already maintain and post these items. The only new requirement in this bill is that the videos be posted on their school system's website, making them more easily accessible.

Over the years the sponsors of both the House and Senate versions of this bill have successfully passed legislation that continues to enhance the public's ability to follow, understand and impact policy decision-making by various public bodies by requiring consistency and modernization of the means to share information. We appreciate their commitment to refining and enhancing our right to know about the decisions that our government is making on our behalf.

We urge a favorable report on HB 154.