

FAVORABLE
House Bill 154
Open Meetings Act-County Boards of Education-Enhanced Requirements
(Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)

Ways and Means Committee
February 05, 2026
1:00 pm

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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 154. This legislation would require each local board of education and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to make the agenda, meeting minutes, and a live stream video of each portion of an open session meeting publicly available on their website. We strongly support the expansion of public access and transparency.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA believes boards of education must be transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs and perspectives of the entire community they serve. This bill would enhance the requirements under the Open Meetings Act and thus expand community access, helping to ensure that decision-making processes are democratic and inclusive of community stakeholders.

We also recommend the inclusion of reasonable, specific exceptions to protect student and educator privacy and ensure decency in publicly available recordings.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 154.