

**STEPHANIE SMITH**  
*Legislative District 45*  
Baltimore City

HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Chair, Education and Economic  
Development

Oversight Committee on Personnel

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB505-Public and Nonpublic Schools- Student School Transfers-Academic Record Documentation**

Hearing: February 18, 2026, 1:00pm

Chair Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair Jessica Feldmark

Ways & Means Committee

HB505 ensures that when a student transfers schools, and an official transcript is being withheld by a nonpublic school, the receiving school may accept alternative academic documentation, such as an unofficial transcript, report card, or other credible academic record in order to facilitate enrollment and appropriate grade placement.

Students impacted by this issue are often transferring due to unforeseen and deeply personal circumstances outside of their control. These students have parents who have faced job loss, medical emergencies, family relocation, or other financial hardships.

HB505 offers a practical solution. It simply allows schools the discretion to rely on alternative academic resources to ensure appropriate placement and uninterrupted learning. It does not eliminate the importance of official transcripts, nor does it restrict a school's ability to verify records. It ensures that students are not academically stalled for administrative or financial reasons.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith".

Delegate Stephanie Smith