

BILL: Senate Bill 830
TITLE: Education – Alternative Schools – Reporting Requirements
DATE: March 3, 2020
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State’s boards of education, opposes Senate Bill 830, which would impose extensive reporting requirements on school systems regarding students attending alternative schools and programs within schools.

This bill would require each local board of education to submit to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) a report on alternative education schools and programs within schools to a degree that MABE believes is more appropriate to the purview of regulations. For example, this bill would require reports on each alternative school or program to include “a list of all instructional and behavioral support staff who worked at the school or program within the reporting period, including the titles and educational certifications of each staff member.”

However, MABE recognizes the heightened attention and scrutiny to the operation of alternative education schools and programs. In this light, MABE requests consideration of ways to condense the level of detail of the information being reported, including being focused on reporting on separate alternative school facilities.

As this committee knows, MABE is supporting the passage of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (HB 1300/SB 1000), comprehensive education reform legislation which proposes to mandate an unprecedented expansion planning, reporting, and accountability requirements on local school systems. These proposed requirements will be the subject of new locally drafted and state approved accountability plans. These plans are poised to require extensive reporting on staffing, instruction, curriculum, and many other facets of school system governance finance, and administration. In this context, local boards of education are respectfully requesting that the General Assembly not adopt any additional reporting requirements.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 830.