

BILL: Senate Bill 892
TITLE: Public Schools – Mathematics Credit – Computer Science or
Computer Programming Course
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: March 3, 2020
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, opposes Senate Bill 892, which would allow high school students to satisfy all or part of their requirement to earn credits in Mathematics by completing credits in computer science or computer programming.

Generally, MABE opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, courses of instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board of Education. Exceptions to this rule are rare. In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for guiding and delivering a high quality statewide system of public education through state standards and accountability measures, and locally governed and administered curriculum, teaching, and learning.

MABE recognizes the General Assembly's strong support for computer science education, as evidenced by legislation passed in 2018. This legislation was enacted to require all public high schools to offer at least one high-quality computer science course beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. MABE supported the 2018 bill, with amendments, and greatly appreciates the initiative to establish and fund the new Maryland Center for Computing Education to support much needed computer science-related professional development.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 892.