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BILL: Senate Bill 34
TITLE: Consumer Protection - Scanning or Swiping Identification Cards and Driver's Licenses - Prohibition
DATE: January 29, 2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Finance Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 34, with an amendment to clarify that schools may continue to scan any person's identification, including a driver's license, for school safety purposes.

This bill would prohibit a person from using a scanning device to scan or swipe an identification (ID) card or a driver's license to obtain personal information. Furthermore, the bill would prohibit the retaining, selling, or transferring information collected from scanning or swiping IDs, except as required by law.

The bill defines person in such a manner as to include all entities, including state and local governmental entities, and therefore would directly impact the ability of public schools to scan IDs. The passage of the Safe to Learn Act of 2018, and the funding of school security grants, saw a dramatic increase in investments in developing in-house systems or entering into contractual service agreements to enable schools to routinely scan the IDs of all school visitors. MABE is committed to preserving the ability of schools to do so, in the interests of students, staff and communities in the heightened awareness regarding who is present in our school buildings at all times, and most importantly, the capacity to know immediately whether a visitor is in the national registered sex offender database or otherwise identified as a person prohibited to enter onto school premises.

In this light, MABE is requesting the legislature's recognition of this critical public safety function, and the need to preserve the functionality of our ID scanning systems. MABE greatly appreciates the bill sponsor's agreement to an amendment to reflect this concern by ensuring that schools remain able to cross-reference all visitors' IDs through systems that identify potential threats to school safety and security, and ensure that all visitors are visibly identifiable as having permission to be on school grounds.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 34, with the amendment described above.