



**Maryland's Voice for
Nonpublic Education**

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MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

HOUSE BILL 1008

EDUCATION – CHILD ABUSE AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION – HIRING EMERGENT EMPLOYEES

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Maryland CAPE is our state's chapter and one of 40 state chapters of the Council for American Private Education. Our network includes the Catholic, Christian, Evangelical Lutheran, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Lutheran, Montessori, Muslim, and Seventh Day Adventist school communities. We speak on behalf of roughly 120,000 nonpublic school students attending over one thousand nonpublic schools across our great state of Maryland.

Maryland CAPE believes that it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure with the greatest level of certainty that the school environment is the safest it could possibly be. Each day the care of our children is placed in the teachers, administrators, and miscellaneous staff at their respective schools. We have previously supported legislation to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to verify the quality of character of these individuals that they be suited for the priceless task of caring for our youth, overseeing their growth, or merely being in their presence or proximity during the school day.

House Bill 1008 specifically addresses areas that can improve upon the previous legislation, and with the below amendments, that can be accomplished. One item, as below, excludes nonpublic schools due to the method of contracting teachers. A second amendment will better enable schools who must do emergent hiring with a more productive and conducive way to get the classroom up and running.

Thank you!

AMENDMENT No. 1

On page 5, line 1, strike "~~OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL~~".

Explanation: While it makes sense for all schools, including nonpublic schools, to be included in the first provision of this bill (Section (E)(1)), Section (E)(2) need only apply to public schools because of the nature of their contracts and collective bargaining. Some non-teacher personnel at nonpublic schools are not contractual employees and teachers are governed by their own contractual provisions outside of collective bargaining agreements.

AMENDMENT No. 1

On page 4, line 31, strike "~~ALONE~~" and insert "ON A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS".

Explanation: Teachers hired on an emergent hiring basis should be able to teach before a full class of students, so long as they are in the immediate vicinity of a permanent employee, without being required to have a teachers aid, for example, in the classroom. Many schools do not have the resources to provide for that aspect.