



House Bill 1056

Nonpublic Schools - Adequate Health Services - Eligibility for Reimbursement

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 3, 2021

From: Drew Jabin

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1056. Maryland's local jurisdictions play an important role in the funding and administration of public school education and health services. This bill would extend those responsibilities, unfairly diverting local government funding to reimburse up to 50% of the costs of adequate health services provided at **nonpublic** schools.

As a rule, MACo resists state policies that result in costly or burdensome local implementation. Under state law, counties would have no choice but to support these new costs from reimbursements - competing for limited local funds against school construction, public safety, roadway maintenance, and other essential public services. The bottom line is that nonpublic school health services should not be funded by Maryland taxpayers.

Counties are concerned this legislation would be a substantial administrative and cost burden, and unfairly places the burden on local government to reimburse for health services provided to students not in the Maryland public school system. Ultimately, this legislation would create a slippery slope by troublesomely diverting public funds to provide for students not enrolled in the county school system. It is not justifiable, and accordingly, MACo **OPPOSES** HB 1056 and requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report.