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Ways and Means Committee
Education Subcommittee

House Chair
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0320: Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Transfer of Student Data - Modifications
Bill Hearing: March 18th, 2021, 1:00 PM, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Chairman Paul Pinsky and Vice Chair Kagen, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Committee

HB0320 would repeal provisions of the Career Preparation Expansion Act, which requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to collect and provide identifying student information to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDS) on specified business licenses and students receiving industry and vocational certificates.

Under the current law, MLDS collects and maintains individual-level student and workforce data from all levels of education and the States workforce. The current law also established the MLDS Center within the State government to serve as a central repository for the data, to ensure

- compliance with federal privacy laws,
- to perform research on the data sets,
- And to fulfill education reporting requirements and approved public information requests.

The MLDS Center is administratively housed within the Maryland State Department of Education. The purpose of the data system is to facilitate and enable the exchange of student data among agencies and institutions within the State as well as generate timely and accurate information about student achievement that can be used to improve the State's education system and guide decision makers at all levels. The data system allows users to effectively organize, manage, disaggregate, and analyze individual student data and to examine student progress and outcomes over time, including preparation for postsecondary education and the workforce.

The new bill would require specified State licensing authorities that issue occupational or professional licenses under the Business Occupations and Professions Article, the Business Regulation Article, or the Health Occupations Article to *make every effort* to

1. comply with specified data requirements and the implementation schedule for MLDS as set forth by the governing board and
2. Transfer student data to MLDS in accordance with the center's data security and safeguarding plan.

Further, the bill adds a representative of the executive directors of the health occupations boards, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to the governing board of the MLDS Center.

I urge the committee to vote favorably on HB0320.

Sincerely,

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith