



621 Ridgely Avenue, Suite 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-5414 · 800-841-8197 · Fax: 410-841-6580 · MABE.org

**BILL:** House Bill 27  
**TITLE:** Education - Reporting Arrests of Students - Alterations  
**DATE:** January 28, 2021  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 27 which would require that the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), the State Board of Education (SBE), and the State's Attorney be notified when a student is arrested.

MABE does not believe that arrest data alone warrants the mandatory reporting proposed in this bill. The vast majority of student's arrested are never charged, and the circumstances giving rise to the arrest are addressed appropriately in the school setting. In this context, MABE does not support this bill's approach to expanding the mandatory reporting of student arrests.

MABE firmly believes that safety in public schools is the joint responsibility of local boards of education, school administrators and staff, students, parents and guardians, law enforcement and other public safety agencies, human services agencies, and the community in general.

Therefore, we continue to urge federal, state, and local governments to ensure adequate and equitable funding for local public school safety and security programs, alternative education programs, and the wide array of behavioral health and public safety services provided by other public and private entities.

MABE believes that this holistic approach is essential to maintaining safe schools and access to a high quality education for all of Maryland's students.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 27.

