



## SB427 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - PROVISION OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS - REQUIREMENT

March 24, 2021

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **SB427 Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement**. This bill requires each local board of education to ensure that each public school provide, at no charge to the students, menstrual hygiene products via dispensers in the restrooms at the school. A public middle or high school must install menstrual hygiene product dispensers in at least two restrooms on or before October 1, 2021, and in specified restrooms on or before August 1, 2025. A public elementary school must install menstrual hygiene product dispensers in at least one restroom on or before October 1, 2021.

AACPS supports the intent of this bill to ensure that students have access to menstrual hygiene products. We greatly appreciate that the bill has been amended to provide additional clarity on the implementation as well as allow county boards of education to submit a request for the reimbursement of the costs of purchasing and installing menstrual hygiene product dispensers to implement the bill. Such a reimbursement would be extremely helpful to local school systems as it limits the fiscal impact of the legislation. AACPS asks that you also consider an additional amendment that would cover the cost of the feminine hygiene products.

Finally, AACPS also requests an amendment to clarify that a school system is not required to provide tampons. There are well-documented health concerns associated with tampons and many parents do not want their children using these particular feminine hygiene products. The requirement to provide tampons, therefore, raises potential liability issues. Finally, there is a concern that teachers may be expected to assist a student with the use of tampons, in particular, which raises additional liability concerns.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report with the proposed amendments on SB427.