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## The Maryland House of Delegates

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### **HB 1170 – Primary and Secondary Education – Virtual Schools – Alterations**

Students across Maryland have been relegated to virtual learning for more than 11 months. Teachers and administrators, for the most part, have struggled to deliver a quality education virtually. While many students do not prefer virtual learning, **there are some students and families that are thriving and hope to continue in this mode.**

Maryland's virtual schooling is a traditional model of teaching delivered virtually. Traditional education in a classroom was not designed and developed to be delivered virtually.

#### **What problem are we trying to solve?**

For those families and students who are thriving under the virtual learning environment, there will be no option for them once we return to the traditional model. HB 1170 will authorize a county board of education, the State Department of Education, or a public institution of higher education with a preK-12 education program to establish a full-time public virtual school in Maryland. **There are 33 states that already have a full-time virtual option for students.**

The full-time virtual education programs are designed and built to be used on-line. The teachers, staff and administrators are trained to deliver education on-line. Virtual education can be a dynamic and effective method of teaching students of all ages, especially when designed for this method. The ability to reach students in a home-and-hospital program effectively through on-line learning is exceptional. The possibilities for special needs students are also phenomenal.

Pearson Education, located in Columbia, Maryland, offers full-time virtual learning programs in 29 states. HB 1170 will enable Maryland public schools to use the expertise of Pearson and/or other education companies that currently deliver full-time virtual education programs.

**Maryland students should have the option to continue in a full-time virtual school.**

**Please Vote in Favor of HB 1170**