



HB205 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - PROVISION OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS - REQUIREMENT

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB205 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 do have concerns that the requirements set forth in the bill would create an unfunded mandate and have a significant fiscal impact on school systems. Accordingly, we request an amendment to provide State funding for the implementation of this bill. The State funding should cover the cost of the feminine hygiene products themselves as well as the cost of procuring, installing, and maintaining the requisite dispensing devices at each school.

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 HB205.