

**BILL:** House Bill 700  
**TITLE:** Education - Disruption of School Activities - Repeal of Prohibition  
**DATE:** February 10, 2021  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, opposes House Bill 700.

MABE opposes House Bill 700 because it would eliminate the prohibition contained in the Education Article that "A person may not willfully disturb or otherwise willfully prevent the orderly conduct of the activities, administration, or classes of any institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education." Local boards of education place a high priority on providing a safe workplace and learning environment for each student and staff person. Removing the provision of law cited above would serve to weaken the legal framework supporting the efforts of educators and school administrators to secure such a teaching and learning environment on a daily basis.

Importantly, the section of law proposed to be deleted in no way specifically references students. Therefore, by removing this clear prohibition, any person entering a school and willfully disturbing the ongoing education being conducted would no longer be subject to a charge and penalty under the law.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 700.