

**BILL:** House Bill 1256  
**TITLE:** Education - Discriminatory Concepts in Instruction - Prohibition (Ending Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022)  
**DATE:** March 10, 2022  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means Committee  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 1256, which would prohibit teachers and other employees of public and certain non-public schools from including certain discriminatory concepts in instructional units.

Local boards of education are committed to providing programs of instruction and units of curriculum designed to promote inclusivity and critical thinking about historical issues. Local school systems are required to have procedures and practices in place to provide for educational equity to help ensure that there are no obstacles to accessing educational opportunities for any students and to help eliminate achievement gaps for all Maryland students. In this light, MABE opposes adopting state-wide prohibitions on specific instructional content, including identifying specific concepts and content standards and more specific units of instruction.

As this committee knows, MABE opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curricular instruction, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board. Furthermore, this bill addresses issues already covered under numerous federal, state, and local laws, and many local systems have comprehensive procedures designed for community members to utilize if they have concerns about local curriculum and instruction.

MABE maintains a strong preference for the adoption of State standards and the local discretion to achieve those standards through locally adopted curriculum and instructional tools and practices. Local systems in Maryland are committed to reviewing curriculum standards through the lens of educational equity to further educate students in the importance of anti-discrimination through a historical and present-day context. MABE's opposition rests primarily on the association's opposition to statutorily mandating the prohibition on teaching any one concept or content item, including the concepts discussed in this bill.

For these reasons, MABE urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 1256.