



**Board of Education of Howard County  
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,  
Appropriations Committee  
March 15, 2022**

**Board of Education  
of Howard County**

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**HB1365: UNFAVORABLE**

**Primary and Secondary Education – Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count – Alterations**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) opposes **HB1365 Primary and Secondary Education – Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment Count – Alterations**.

Under the provisions of this bill, the official student enrollment count, which is the basis for school system funding, would be altered from the current September 30 count to instead be the average of enrollment snapshots taken on the last day of the month in September, December, March, and the final day of school. While the exact fiscal impact would be unknown in future years for Howard County, the logistics and timing of this bill concern Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) staff. It would substantially delay the enrollment verification process used for the school system budget, given it would not be available until the end of the school year. Moreover, it would likely be even further delayed following Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) review and certification of the official number, which would hold back state and local budgets that are currently adopted during that timeframe.

If the intent of HB1365 is to address concerns with using a snapshot in time as the basis for school system funding, the proposed solution is merely a different variation of the current problem of funding based on a lagging indicator, especially in fast growing districts. At the very least, more research and analysis should be done to determine what measures may more accurately reflect future school system enrollment and the subsequent funding needs before legislating such measures.

For these reasons, we urge a UNFAVORABLE report of HB1365 from this Committee.