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Legislative District 44
Baltimore City and Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committees

Children, Youth, and Families

Ending Homelessness



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senator Charles E. Sydnor III
Testimony for SB 55
Baltimore County Board of Education – Retention of Counsel
Before the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
On January 19, 2022

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Senate Bill 55, if passed, will put the Baltimore County Board of Education on similar footing as other school boards across the State by allowing Baltimore County Board of Education to retain legal counsel in legal matters affecting the Board and to contract for the payment of a reasonable fee to the counsel without prohibition. Currently law prohibits the Baltimore County Board from retaining counsel to represent it in legal matters unless those matters involve disputes with the Baltimore County government.

I have attempted to reconcile why the Baltimore County Board of Education is the sole school board with this limitation and have been unable to determine why this limitation was codified; nevertheless with SB 55, I am hoping to change this. I ask that this Committee move favorable on SB 55.