

SB0318 - 2.9.22 -More Opportunities for Career-Foc

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

SENATE BILL 318 – MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER-FOCUSED STUDENTS ACT OF 2022

Sponsor – Senator Rosapepe, et al.

February 9, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

Senate Bill 318 requires Maryland’s school districts to consider the pursuit of career certificates and apprenticeships as equivalent to pursuing postsecondary education. The bill provides students and families the option to opt out of sharing the student’s personal information found on a college and career readiness platform with apprenticeship sponsors and employers registered with the Department of Labor or a local workforce development board.

Additionally, the bill requires that any school district that pays for academic testing such as Advanced Placement examinations, Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, or a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) exams shall also pay for apprenticeship entrance exams and industry certification exams.

The Greater Baltimore Committee contends industry recognized credentials and apprenticeship opportunities provide a path for Maryland’s student to achieve family-sustaining jobs. Ensuring that students are encouraged to pursue these options in addition to post-secondary education benefits both students as well as the countless businesses in Maryland that need a pipeline of qualified workers. In addition, paying the cost of needed exams for apprenticeships or industry certifications will allow more students to pursue opportunities to gain skills and credentials for jobs in high-growth industry sectors.

This approach is consistent with one of the core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth outlined in the GBC report, *Gaining A Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*:

Workforce that is highly-educated and meets Maryland’s business needs. Maryland’s secondary and higher education institutions must offer access to quality instruction at all levels and cultivate a workforce that is well-suited to a modern economy and to the specific needs of Maryland’s business sectors.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 318.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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sb 318 - msbca letter of support.pdf

Uploaded by: Erin Appel

Position: FAV



February 7, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky and Members
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support – SB318 – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports SB318 – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State. MSBCA remains committed to the safety of the students they transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

As you well know, we are facing a severe school bus driver shortage, which has led to the suspension of bus services to schools across the State. Early training is key to helping to build up our driver pool and this bill will go a long way in ensuring such training is both available and promoted.

Specific to school bus drivers, it would permit local jurisdictions at their individual discretion the ability to lower the driving age of a driver from 21 to 19 ½. Together, this would allow potential school bus drivers the ability to begin training early and to be “behind the wheel” earlier as well, while still ensuring that they have a full three (3) years of general driving experience behind them. Once again, this bill does not mandate a lowered age requirement for school bus drivers, it merely permits local jurisdictions the ability lower the age should they so choose. Especially in rural areas where many young people begin driving large-scale farm equipment and other larger/atypical vehicles at an early age, it would serve to increase the pool of potential school bus drivers while allowing for local oversight and not sacrificing safety of the children being transported.

Once again, MSBCA supports SB318 and asks for a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to our State.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson, President
1 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21403
410.268.3099

MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State.

MMHA - 2022 - SB 318 - Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Grason Wiggins

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 318

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Date: February 9, 2022

Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of the Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA). MMHA is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose members consist of owners and managers of more than 210,000 rental housing homes in over 958 apartment communities. Our members house over 538,000 residents of the State of Maryland. MMHA also represents over 250 associate member companies who supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry.

Senate Bill 318 (“SB 318”) requires schools to inform students of apprenticeship opportunities in the same way schools inform students of postsecondary education opportunities. Further, SB 318 requires schools that pay for postsecondary education tests to allocate funding for apprenticeship exams.

Apprenticeships provide sustainable and gainful employment opportunities throughout Maryland. **MMHA’s Service Training Academy (STA) trains multiple cohorts annually at NO cost to participants and connects participants with maintenance technician positions at apartment communities that pay sustainable wages and offer full benefits.** The STA currently offers free training to participants, opportunities for continuing education to graduates, and connection to industry certifications. MMHA is working closely with Employ Prince George’s to establish the STA as an apprenticeship program within Maryland’s housing industry.

With the passage of SB 318, the STA would quickly connect more participants from Maryland’s schools to employment and provide an opportunity to grow a career within Maryland’s housing industry. In addition to a sustainable wage, STA graduates that obtain employment are offered full benefits by their employers, including access to reduced-price or even free housing. As such, SB 318 establishes a valuable system of information that connects students with careers in Maryland’s housing industry. **For this reason, MMHA respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee.**

Grason Wiggins. Senior Manager, Government Affairs. (912) 687-5745.

HFAM Testimony SB 318.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 9, 2022
Senate Bill 318: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022
Written Only Testimony

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 318. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

Senate Bill 318 requires certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education; requires certain county boards to provide a method for certain individuals to not authorize the release of a student's personal information and certain results to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; and requires a county board to pay for a student to take an apprenticeship or industrial certification exam under certain circumstances.

This legislation would put certain apprenticeship programs on par with traditional college degree programs and requires school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

We support this legislation because workforce recruitment and retention challenges have long existed in healthcare, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges have only grown worse over the last two years and they will likely remain even as we begin to navigate a post-pandemic world. This legislation is important to ensure that we continue to have solutions to staffing challenges and remove barriers to entry after the pandemic.

Across care settings in Maryland and throughout the country, we fought the most recent surge of the COVID-19 pandemic with fewer people working in healthcare, and particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers.

As we plan our long-term "new normal" in healthcare, we are placing considerable attention on how on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, trade studies, and traditional post-secondary education can be overlapped to produce more licensed professionals in our setting and in settings across the care continuum.

HFAM Testimony - Senate Bill 318

February 9, 2022

Page 2

Just as there are incremental steps of professional development and job classification in traditional trade apprenticeship approaches, some of us in healthcare are looking at developing similar types of career ladders for our sector.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 318.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.

President and CEO

(410) 290-5132

SB 318 - Support with Amendments - More Opportunit

Uploaded by: Ary Amerikaner

Position: FWA

SB 318. More Opportunities for Career-Focused Stude

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FWA

BILL: Senate Bill 318
TITLE: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022
DATE: February 9, 2022
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 318 with amendments to address concerns with the mandate to assist students and families with the costs of not only student assessments but also industry certifications. In addition, a provision of the bill raises parental consent concerns regarding the sharing of student information with apprenticeship programs and prospective employers by default, without express parental permission.

MABE endorses the recently enacted Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act and the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education's overarching goal to develop a world class instructional system that will enable Maryland high school graduates to match students in the highest achieving countries in the world in academic attainments, equip them with the complex skills they will need to be successful in a technologically sophisticated economy, contribute to their communities, and play their roles as informed and thoughtful citizens in the world's oldest democracy. MABE firmly believes that much progress can and should be made in this area through state and local investments in high quality programs consistent with budget-aligned strategies and plans.

Today, school systems are struggling and typically unable to meet the high demand from students and families for CTE programs. Therefore, MABE supports significantly increasing state funding to support high quality college and career readiness programs, including costs of assessments and professional certifications, professional development, student transportation, and CTE facilities and programs. MABE also supports expanding and strengthening the system of comprehensive high schools with specialized CTE programs, and specialized CTE high schools, in accordance with local school system priorities and local board governance. In this context, MABE requests that the bill's mandate that school systems that pay for certain student assessments must also pay for industry certifications be amended to more generally require equitable and affordable access to student assessments the college and career readiness programs.

As Maryland strives to expand CTE and apprenticeship programs, and ensure equitable access to students choosing these educational pathways, it is imperative that parents remain fully engaged in this process. Therefore, MABE requests an amendment to provide parents and guardians the option of whether to share their child's personal school counseling information with employers and apprenticeship programs. MABE requested that on page 2 in line 9 "NOT" be replaced with "WHETHER".

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 318 with the amendments described above.

SB318 CTE Focused 2.9.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: UNF



SB318 MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER-FOCUSED STUDENTS ACT OF 2022

February 9, 2022

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB318 More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022**. This bill generally requires local school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

AACPS maintains and operates two robust career technology education (CTE) programs in dedicated space at the Centers for Applied Technology North and South. The AACPS Career and Technology Education Office provides leadership, support, and resources for all courses and programs in the areas of Applied Technology, Business Education, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education. CTE programs offer students an opportunity to get a head start on their career as well as post-secondary education. These programs are in high demand by AACPS students and the business community.

This legislation, however, is getting ahead of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Local school systems should be focused on implementation of Blueprint and college and career readiness and CTE pathways as opposed to working through piecemeal changes in the law. While AACPS appreciates the spirit of this legislation to both bolster the emphasis of CTE through intentional paradigm shifts and to require funding for industry recognized certification tests and apprenticeship entrance exams, it is unnecessary. What this bill seeks to do will be accomplished by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Accordingly, the legislation is unnecessary.

This legislation would also create an unfunded mandate by getting ahead of requirements set forth in the Blueprint. While AACPS supports the general goals of the legislation, the school system opposes unfunded mandates.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB318.