



HB1268 EDUCATION - REPORTING ARRESTS OF STUDENTS – ALTERATIONS

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB1268 Education - Reporting Arrests of Students – Alterations**. This bill requires a law enforcement agency making an arrest of a student for a reportable offense or an offense related to the student's membership in a criminal organization to report the arrest to the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), the State Board of Education, and the State's Attorney. It also requires the State's Attorney to notify the Maryland Center for School Safety and the State Board of the disposition of an offense. A local superintendent must also notify MCSS and the State Board of Education when a student who was arrested no longer resides in the jurisdiction of the county board of education. The bill also makes conforming changes related to the confidentiality and disposition of student arrest records.

Safety in public schools remains increasingly important to local boards of education as school-related security incidents and threats in Maryland and throughout the nation have increased over the years. As a result, it is essential for educational leaders to be included in the continued development of a comprehensive security plan.

Communication among stakeholders is essential in helping to maintain school safety. As such, AACPS supports legislation that eliminates impediments to communication among school system, law enforcement and juvenile justice officials. HB1268 will assist in this endeavor by further enhancing the current reportable offense statute and help eliminate communication barriers that currently exist. Requiring law enforcement to report the reportable arrest data directly to MCSS and the State Board of Education will help ensure that data is accurate and timely.

AACPS requests that the bill be amended to eliminate the reporting requirement in current law which requires a local superintendent to submit an annual report to MSDE on reportable offenses. The district believes that the most accurate and timely information regarding reportable offenses will come from law enforcement agencies as they ultimately determine whether or not to arrest an individual. Because the bill will require a law enforcement agency to report this data to the State Board of Education and MCSS, there is no need for a local superintendent to also report this data.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB1268.