



HB750 EDUCATION - JOBS THAT REQUIRE DRIVING - REQUIREMENTS (DRIVERS EDUCATION FOR GOOD JOBS ACT OF 2022)

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB750 Education - Jobs That Require Driving - Requirements (Drivers Education for Good Jobs Act of 2022)**. This bill requires the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to establish, by December 31, 2022, a statewide CTE pathway for high school students to prepare for a career that requires driving skills and a driver's license and that leads to the student achieving the required license. The CTE Committee must also establish an annual goal for the number of students who obtain the appropriate driver's license before they graduate from high school. The bill also authorizes a local school board to allow an employee of the board, or an employee of a person that contracts with the board, to transport a public school student in a vehicle if the driver is at least 19 years and 6 months old and has at least 3 years of experience driving a vehicle.

AACPS supports expanded opportunities and pathways for students to excel and achieve career readiness. This legislation appears to support and further that goal. It is unclear in the bill, as drafted, whether the legislation and the CTE Committee would make such programs of study mandatory or optional for local school systems. However, AACPS opposes curriculum mandates and maintains that local control best positions a school district to service its students and school communities at large. As such, the legislation should be amended to explicitly state that the programs and pathways developed under the legislation would simply authorize a local school system to offer such program or pathway if desired. Failure to make this program optional would cost AACPS more than \$3.2 million. While AACPS supports the intent of the legislation, we oppose unfunded mandates.

The legislation requires the CTE Committee to establish an annual goal for the number of completers for the proposed program. AACPS opposes such prescriptive mandates in State law, and we recommend that the bill be amended to remove this requirement.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB750.