

# **SB0522-2023 EducAcctImplementBoard.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ella Ennis

Position: FAV



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman  
Maryland Federation of Republican Women  
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401  
Email: eee437@comcast.net

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman  
And Members of the Committee on  
Education, Energy and Environment  
Senate of Maryland  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB0522** – Education – Accountability & Implementation Board – Membership -- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports SB 522 to add regional representation to the Education Accountability and Implementation Board. As currently constituted, the Accountability and Implementation Board is dominated by individuals from 4 jurisdictions but their decisions will impact the education of children in all of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions for the next ten to twenty years.

The needs and concerns in smaller counties often differ from those in large metropolitan jurisdictions. Resources available in rural areas can be very different from those in urban areas. Providing services to children with language barriers, physical limitations, and other special needs can be more complicated and more costly in rural areas.

The Board's membership needs balance and representation from all regions of the State. Adding a representative from Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore and one from each of the 5 largest counties will broaden the perspectives of the AIB. It will be greatly improved with the mix of population size and regional representation provided for in SB 522.

We urge you to vote a **FAVORABLE** report for **SB 522**.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis  
Legislative Chairman

**HB740 & SB522 - AIB - LOS (SENATE).pdf**

Uploaded by: Kaleigh Leager

Position: FAV



CAROLINE COUNTY  
*you belong here*  
CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT  
LARRY C. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT  
NORMAN FRANKLIN BARTZ, III., COMMISSIONER  
109 Market Street, Room 123  
Denton, Maryland 21629

**Senate Bill 522**

Education – Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership

Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: MARCH 14, 2023

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment

The Caroline County Commissioners **SUPPORT** SB 522 Education – Accountability and Implementation Board – Membership.

Currently, the Accountability and Implementation Board does not represent the geographical diversity of the school systems in the State of Maryland. There is no representation from Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, or the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Caroline County Commissioners are extremely concerned with any Board that has the authority to make decisions for the entire State that lacks diversified representation from our vastly different geographical locations and budgetary abilities.

With this, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 522.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding  
President  
Caroline County Commissioners

### **03.10.23 Support of Senate Bill 0522 Education -**

Uploaded by: Ronald Fithian

Position: FAV



**The County Commissioners of Kent County**  
Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member  
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator | Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.  
James Senate Office Building, Room 420  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support Senate Bill 0522/ House Bill 0740 – Education – Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership

Dear Senator Hershey:

On behalf of the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, this letter serves as support for Senate Bill 0522 - Education - Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership. Kent County fully supports SB0522 as drafted. Eastern Shore is not represented on the Accountability and Implementation Board currently, SB0522 adds a member from the Eastern Shore to the bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelley L. Heller", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Shelley L. Heller  
County Administrator

SLH: tlt

cc: The County Commissioners of Kent County  
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs  
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz  
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist

**02.27.23 SB 0522 LOS Joint.pdf**

Uploaded by: Terry Hale

Position: FAV

*Danielle Hornberger*  
County Executive

Steven Overbay  
Acting Director of Administration

Office: 410.996.5202  
Email: [dhornberger@ccgov.org](mailto:dhornberger@ccgov.org)



Jackie Gregory  
Council President

Robert Meffley  
Vice President

Office: 410.996.5201  
Email: [council@ccgov.org](mailto:council@ccgov.org)

**CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
Cecil County Administration Building  
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0522 Education – Accountability and Implementation Board Membership  
Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:


The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously support SB 0522 Education – Accountability and Implementation Board Membership. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled on March 14, 2023.

It is our understanding that this legislation will alter the membership and qualifications of members of the Accountability and Implementation Board; and requiring the Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee to submit a certain slate of nominees to the Governor on or before August 1, 2023.

It is also our understanding that currently the Eastern Shore is not represented on this Board. Cecil County strongly supports representation of the Eastern Shore counties on all State boards and this bill will ensure that every geographic region is fairly represented.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully requests that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee send a favorable report on SB 0522.

Sincerely,

  
Danielle Hornberger  
County Executive

  
Jackie Gregory  
President of County Council



**230313-SB522-Increase mbrs-accntblty-bd-amend.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christine Hunt

Position: FWA

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers  
1014 Dockser Drive  
Crownsville, MD 21032

March 13, 2023

Maryland General Assembly  
Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee  
Annapolis, MD

RE: SB 522 – Education – Accountability and Implementation Board – Membership

Dear Senators,

We support SB 522 and respectfully request that you vote for it.

We support adding additional members to the Accountability and Implementation Board who would represent the areas of the State with less population densities than those that are currently represented.

**Suggested Amendment:**

Although the members currently reflect racial diversity, we would like to make sure that they also represent, in an equitable ratio, the political leanings of Democrat, Republican and Independent.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers

# **3-14 SB 522 AIB Membership.pdf**

Uploaded by: Gail Sunderman

Position: UNF



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**SB 522 Education – Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership**

**POSITION: Oppose**

**BY: Nancy Soreng, President**

**Date: March 14, 2023**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) is a nonpartisan organization that works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. LWVMD supported the passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) and continues to monitor and support the implementation of the Blueprint.

**LWVMD opposes SB 522 Education – Accountability and Implementation Board – Membership.**

This bill would require the AIB to include representatives from various regions of the state and from each of the five counties with the largest student populations. This change is likely to introduce regional and partisan issues into the operation of the AIB and undermine its independence and effectiveness.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future established the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) as an independent unit of State government designed to provide oversight, hold local and state governments accountable for implementation, and evaluate implementation outcomes. Members of the AIB were required to have a **high level of knowledge and expertise** in education policy, teaching, leading and managing systemic change, financial auditing and accounting, and evaluation. Thus, the credibility and independence of the AIB is based on the expertise of its members, not where they live.

Requiring the AIB to include regional representation undermines the requirement that AIB membership is based on expertise. The current law includes provisions that membership reflect—**to the extent practical**—the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the state, but elevates, as it should be, expertise of members.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB522.

**SB 522 (HB 740) Oppose.pdf**

Uploaded by: Maddie Long

Position: UNF



**Testimony in opposition to  
Senate Bill 522: Education - Accountability and Implementation Board -  
Membership**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Position: Oppose**

March 14, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We advocate for legislative and regulatory policy changes to further educational equity and build the technical capacity of everyday Marylanders to hold state and local officials accountable to their responsibilities. **Strong Schools Maryland urges a unfavorable vote on Senate Bill 522: Education - Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership.**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state's students. A key pillar of this vision is a strong system of accountability to keep all entities integral to the education system accountable during the implementation process. The Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) functions as a crucial agency that holds all state agencies and local governments accountable for implementing the Blueprint and outcomes. This legislation harmfully alters the membership composition of the AIB's governing board.

Senate Bill 522:

- Increases the number of members appointed to the Accountability and Implementation Board from 7 to 11; and

- Requires one member from each of the following locations: Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore, Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties.

Currently, the board must consist of 7 individuals who collectively “reflect, to the extent practicable, the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State” and “have a high level of knowledge and expertise in various education policy areas.”<sup>1</sup> This bill seeks to alter membership of the board on the basis of nothing and will create multiple consequences, most notably the unnecessary politicization of the AIB and emphasis on geography over educational expertise. Existing law *does not* prohibit any members of the board from any county or region in Maryland to serve on the AIB.

Accessibility, opportunity, and equal representation are not at risk; however the integrity of the board and its mission to implement the Blueprint with fidelity are at risk when we reconstitute the board based on arbitrary geography, without giving consideration to population – specifically populations that have been historically underserved. We urge this committee not to allow the AIB to turn into a hub of partisan politics. Instead, faithfully uphold the principles of accountability and diverse representation within this entity.

**For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 522.**

*For more information, contact Maddie Long:  
maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org*

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<sup>1</sup> [2022 Fiscal and Policy Note](#)