

February 26, 2023

Testimony on SB 271
Education – Maryland Civic Engagement Program – Established
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 271: establishing the Maryland Civic Engagement Program in public schools, which would prioritize our youth by ensuring they have opportunities to learn and practice civic engagement, whether it be through volunteerism in organizations such as Girl Scouts or taking a civics class.

The proposed Seal of Civic Engagement award is given to students and public schools in recognition of their efforts to promote student civic engagement. It is an amazing tool for encouraging students to study and engage in civics further. At Common Cause Maryland we believe that youth civic engagement is critical in preserving the future of our democracy.

This program also prioritizes transparency, as the schools must provide an annual report to the Department of Education measuring the effectiveness and participation of the program in general. This report is key in assessing the success of the program and identifying components that need to be improved.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.