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**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**HB320— Maryland Longitudinal Data System – Definition of Student Data – Alteration**  
**April 4, 2023**

**Position: Support**

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people of intellectual and developmental disabilities. We support House Bill 320, which would amend the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) to include the collection of student disability data, disaggregated by specific disability category.

The Maryland Longitudinal Data System currently collects student data about performance on assessments, academics, and course completion. It also contains information on student demographics, degrees, certificates or diplomas, student discipline, child socio-economic data and other areas that may affect attendance, educational performance and impact college and career readiness.

Integrating information about students with disabilities, that is disaggregated by disability, will provide seriously needed data points. This will complete the set of information in the MLDS that the Department of Education and policymakers need to oversee outcomes of our education system- monitor post school progress, career readiness, and workforce outcomes for ALL students, including students with specific disabilities. It will be useful in decisions regarding where future resources, training, and focus should be, to ultimately create success for students with and without disabilities.

The House agrees:

**The House vote, in favor of passing HB320 was strongly supportive (127- 5) and indicative of the recognized need for this change.**

For these reasons, The Arc Maryland asks the Senate EEE Committee for a favorable report on HB320.

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