

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3793 · 301-858-3793
800-492-7122 Ext. 3793
Michele.Guyton@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 4, 2023

HB 320: Maryland Longitudinal Data System – Definitions of Student Data – Alterations

Delegate Michele Guyton

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 320 to alter the definition of student data in the Maryland Longitudinal Data System. The Members of this General Assembly, and specifically, the Members of this committee, should be incredibly proud of the work that we have done in past sessions establishing and expanding the MLDS. MLDS allows researchers to utilize encrypted data from three different agencies – MSDE, the Department of Labor, and MHEC, to develop and evaluate the long-term effects of policy decisions. Every year, there is at least one MLDS bill because of the statutory establishment of MLDA. The addition of any data point to the MLDS must be approved through legislation. HB 320 simply alters the original statute to add disability data to the list of student data that may be collected and analyzed by the MLDS. This is a request by the Statewide Autism Stakeholder Steering Committee to help track the prevalence of autism diagnoses and the long-term employment and educational outcomes of this population in Maryland. Currently, MSDE reports IEP status but not a specific disability code to the MLDS. Statutorily adding specific disability categories to the MLDS will help direct policy for other groups of Marylanders with disabilities as well.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 320, which will help us better support our students with disabilities in Maryland.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton, District 42B