



The Arc Maryland  
8601 Robert Fulton Drive  
Suite 140  
Columbia, MD 21046  
T 410.571.9320  
[www.thearcmd.org](http://www.thearcmd.org)

## HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### HOUSE BILL 265: Public Schools – Standardized Behavioral Health Questionnaire for Students – Development and Implementation

February 8, 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 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc Maryland supports House Bill 265 as it is designed to ensure standardization of the student health questionnaire that is completed by parents or guardians at the time of enrollment and updated annually. Currently there are many different versions of this questionnaire; there is not uniformity of the extent and type of questions, and the information collected by counties. When information is not complete, it can affect the allocation of resources and the services that may be available to students and can also be a disservice to students who may present behaviors that could mask a physical, mental, or intellectual condition.

This bill names certain professionals who will have the opportunity to provide input to the creation of the standardized behavioral health questionnaire for students. Behavioral health is inherent to overall health and essential to positive school performance and achievement. In addition, the more comprehensive questionnaire will help schools to understand the intersection between some mental and physical health conditions and behavioral health for proper care, support, and positive interventions.

For more information, please contact: Ande Kolp, Executive Director of The Arc Maryland  
[akolp@thearcmd.org](mailto:akolp@thearcmd.org)