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Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**FAVORABLE**

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

**Delegates Guyton and Kaiser**

February 8, 2023

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB320 to alter the definition of student data in the MLDS. 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 3 different state 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 MLDS. The addition of any data point to the MLDS must be approved through legislation. HB320 simply alters the original statute to add student 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 HB320 which will help us better support our student with disabilities in Maryland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton D42B