



**2024 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: **HB 167 – Public Schools – Student Health – Information on Accessible Dental Health**

COMMITTEE: **Senate – Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

POSITION: **Letter of Support As Amended**

BILL ANALYSIS: **HB 167 would require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to support and facilitate each county Board of Education in publishing information on financially accessible dental health available in the county in student handbooks and on local school system websites.**

POSITION RATIONALE:

The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) supports HB 167 as amended. MACHO recognizes the intent of HB 167 as an effort to improve dental health among Maryland’s school children. Prior to the amendments, MACHO expressed concern that the bill provisions would constitute an unfunded mandate with significant administrative and likely programmatic burden on already stretched resources of the school health nurses in the public schools across the State. The amendments made and approved by the House have resolved these concerns.

As currently amended, the bill would require the Maryland State Department of Education to work with county Boards of Education to provide information to students and their families regarding financially accessible dental health available in the county in student handbooks and on local school system websites. This information can serve as a helpful resource to caregivers as they seek dental care for their children.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this Letter of Support As Amended for HB 167. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*