

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 455
College Preparatory Programs and College Admissions Applications – Fees -
Prohibition

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 455, which would prohibiting a county board from charging fees to certain students for their participation in an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program or a comparable Advanced Placement coursework. It would also prohibit public colleges and universities in the State from charging a Maryland public high school graduate fees related to a college admissions application.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

All students should have the opportunity to take challenging coursework that engages their interests and prepares them for their future pursuits. This bill would ensure that all students, regardless of family income or college and career readiness status, can take advantage of college preparation courses without facing financial barriers.

It would also rightly ensure that Maryland colleges and universities are not charging in-state high school graduates fees to apply. College application fees are an inequitable practice and are increasingly understood as contributing to overwhelming, costly application processes that discourage prospective students.¹ Eliminating such fees is a step to help ensure that all Maryland students can pursue their postsecondary goals.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 455.

¹ Small Nudges Can Improve How Students Apply to College. Harvard Business Review (2016). <https://hbr.org/2016/11/small-nudges-can-improve-how-students-apply-to-college>

