



**Board of Education
of Howard County**

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**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,
Ways and Means Committee
February 1, 2024**

HB0066: FAVORABLE

**Property Tax Credits - Public School Employees, Health and Safety Improvements,
and Property Used for Local Housing Programs**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **HB0066 Property Tax Credits - Public School Employees, Health and Safety Improvements, and Property Used for Local Housing Programs** as tool available to Maryland counties looking to expand incentives for school system employees.

HB0066 allows local governments to offer property tax credits to public school employees. The credit would be applicable for residential property that is the primary dwelling of the employee of a public school system in the county where the property is located. The local government would be able to set the amount and duration of any credits adopted by local law as well as other eligibility criteria or provisions for implementation.

As a legislative platform, the Board supports legislation that creates incentives to assist school systems in attracting and retaining highly-qualified teachers, related services providers, and support staff to ensure adequate delivery of education. Although the extent of the impact of a tax credit as proposed under HB0066 is unknown, this bill has the potential to draw teachers into Maryland at a time when teacher shortages are significant, and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will require an increase in staffing resources.

Howard County has made it a local priority to invest in making the Howard County Public School System attractive to current and future employees to keep Howard County among the most sought-after high quality school systems, students, staff, and residents expect. Similar to the recent passage of CB14 by the Howard County Council as a result of authorizing state legislation to implement Maryland's first local Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for teachers, this bill gives local governments additional tools to attract personnel working and living in the county if financially viable to do so.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of HB0066 from this Committee.