

BILL: House Bill 1265
TITLE: Education – Reportable Offenses and Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds – Alterations
HEARING DATE: March 27, 2025
POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all the state’s local boards of education, requests a report that is **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** for **House Bill 1265 – Education – Reportable Offenses and Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds – Alterations**.

MABE appreciates and largely supports the bill’s amendments to date.

- 1. First, MABE supports the bill’s revised list of reportable offenses.** The removal of offenses that do not directly impact student or school safety—and new inclusion of those that do—reflects a thoughtful, balanced approach. This refinement helps ensure that schools are informed when it matters without overwhelming systems with information or encouraging overcriminalization of students.
- 2. Second, MABE supports** requiring the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to notify school districts when a student it DJS’s custody was arrested for a reportable offense and is transferring to a public school. **However, MABE requests a small amendment to Paragraph (e)(2)(I)(1) as follows:**

“This Paragraph applies to a student who is under the custody or supervision of the Department of Juvenile Services”

This amendment would ensure the legal foundation for school systems to receive information about students who may be transferring from other states through the DJS system so that appropriate supports and safety planning can be put in place.

- 3. Third, MABE continues to recommend amending the definition of “school security officer”** to include only school system administrators responsible for safety policies and personnel—rather than a security guard or school resource officer, who play important but non-supervisory, non-policy roles in campus-level security. MABE respectfully submits the following language to redefine “school security officer”:

“School security officer” means an individual employed by a local school system or local government who has system-wide responsibility for school safety and security operations and is designated by the county superintendent. The term does not include a teacher, school resource officers, or campus-based security personnel assigned to individual schools.

4. Finally, we underscore that the operational protocol to be developed by MSDE, in collaboration with other associations and agencies, will be essential to the successful implementation of this bill. MABE stands ready to assist in the development of this protocol alongside those others to ensure it supports local systems in balancing school and public safety, the rights of the accused, student privacy and confidentiality, the administrative burden of inter-agency communication, and the responsibility placed on school systems to assess and act on reported information appropriately.

Therefore, we request a **favorable with amendments** report on HB 1265.