

TO: House Ways and Means Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 113 – State Board of Education – Membership – School Principal

DATE: February 5, 2025

POSITION: Letter of Information

Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) would like to share the following information regarding **HB 129**, which would add an additional member to the State Board who is required to be a certified, active school principal in Maryland, and who would be selected through an election conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The State Board appreciates the intent of this bill to ensure that the principal voice is well represented on the board. We concur that the experience, knowledge, and perspective of an active principal would be valuable. We are fortunate to have current members of the State Board who have served as principals in our public schools.

We are concerned with continued growth of the size of the State Board, which is already one of the largest [state boards of education](#) in the United States at 14 members. Additionally, we have some concerns with outlining specific qualifications for additional members of the State Board to ensure that the Governor retains the flexibility to appoint members of the State Board who have a wide array of experiences and skill sets. We also register hesitation about the additional administrative and fiscal impact of requiring MSDE to manage another election process (as they already do for the teacher member of the State Board).

The State Board does not oppose an active, certified principal serving as a member of the State Board and requests that if the committee consider this legislation that flexibility be maintained without increasing the size of the State Board.

The State Board requests that the committee consider this information as it deliberates **HB 129**. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Education Policy, and Government Relations, at Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov or at 410-767-0504 or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or at 443-915-6094, if you would like any additional information.