

**BILL:** HOUSE BILL 1015  
**TITLE:** Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools – Start Time for Instruction  
**DATE:** February 20, 2025  
**POSITION:** UNFAVORABLE  
**COMMITTEE:** House – Ways and Means  
**CONTACT:** Brian Dulay, MABE Government Relations Director

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state’s local boards of education, opposes House Bill 1015. As the voice of Maryland’s 24 local boards, MABE believes the principle of local governance by boards of education is fundamental to a sound system of public education. This bill imposes a local government mandate.

MABE recognizes and appreciates the intent of this legislation to raise awareness on sleep deprivation as it relates to students and school environments. The implementation realities vary greatly from one district to another, however, and the local governance authority of boards of education in Maryland is continuously challenged by state initiatives.

House Bill 1015 would impose one-size-fits-all statewide changes to middle and high school start times. Shifts in school start times have generated costly feasibility studies, and costly modifications to student transportation management and routing systems. MABE believes such considerations should reside with the local board and school system administration, and welcomes a reasonable balance between state guidance and local decision-making on such a major policy and operational issue. New legislation to require local districts to seek waivers or restate compelling reasons to utilize differing start times is not in alignment with local governance principles.

**For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1015.**

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