



**FAVORABLE:** House Bill 118  
Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

House Ways and Means Committee  
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Blueprint Coalition

The Blueprint Coalition, a 30+ member organization representing hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and co-led by representatives of Strong Schools Maryland and the Maryland State Education Association, strongly supports House Bill 118, the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC) bill. HB 118 would allow the facilitation and mobility of educators across member states, enabling qualified educators to teach in Maryland through an additional pathway to licensure.

The teacher shortage continues to challenge Maryland's education system, a situation exacerbated by the global pandemic of 2019. Since then and during this time, Maryland has implemented historic education reforms, principally the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which aims to transform and strengthen our educational system, with a particular focus on recruiting and retaining high-quality and diverse educators. At present, Maryland is a large import state, which means we import more educators than our colleges and university programs produce. This is especially true for high-needs subject areas like special education and math.

Last year, this body took a significant step forward by successfully passing HB 945 (Education - Initial Teacher Certification - Requirements), a bill designed to reduce barriers to entry into the teaching profession by expanding access for educators seeking initial licensure. The passage of HB 945 resulted in updated regulations via the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB), which further expanded pathways into the classroom through in-district, alternative, traditional, and out-of-state means. These expanded pathways maintain the rigor of the teacher profession as envisioned by the Blueprint while creating more opportunities for aspiring educators. This expansion is essential for a state grappling with a teacher shortage, where approximately 5,000 educators—roughly nine percent of the workforce—currently hold conditional rather than full teaching licenses.

HB 118 offers a strategic solution to further address critical teaching shortages, reduce the percentage of conditionally licensed educators, and strengthen the teacher pipeline. As we look ahead to implementing remaining Blueprint components, including collaborative time, increased community schools, expanded pre-kindergarten classrooms, and additional college and career pathways for students, the need for qualified educators becomes even more pressing. The ITMC directly supports this effort by creating a streamlined process for qualified educators to join Maryland's school communities.

Our collective commitment lies in ensuring the full funding, equitable distribution, and transparent, faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We believe that an increased workforce of high-quality educators, including new educators, is crucial to its successful implementation.

**For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 118.**

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