



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

JOSEPH F. DABBS: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • WILLIAM T. NG: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 391 BOARD of EDUCATIONS – ELECTIONS for MEMBERS REPRESENTING SPECIFIC DISTRICTS February 11, 2025

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, Members of the Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, please join me in full **support of HB 391**. This legislation is long overdue and gives representation on the School Board, in Maryland citizens own back yard. It is the American way to be represented by one's own neighbors. Even in the same county, families from varying districts share unique experiences, diversity and educational needs.

Families and home life is different for those in Dunkirk, compared to those in Solomons. As are the neighborhoods in Charlotte Hall compared to those in Piney Point. My conservative friends want to eliminate the federal Department of Education, citing educational decisions should be made locally, by the states, to better suit the children. I would bring up the same argument regarding counties across the Free State. "You do your best business on Main Street." Although we are discussing the School Board, all representation should be local.

A society is judged on how it teaches its youth. Let's make the best possible decisions for our future by giving representation to Mothers and Fathers in their own neighborhood. Let's drop this antiquated electoral process of electing county wide School Board members and elect our leaders in the district they serve. Which brings up the obvious question, why do these counties have districts at all? Is it sports? Is it income? All School Board decisions should be based on one thing, what is best for our children's education? That starts with "Home rule."

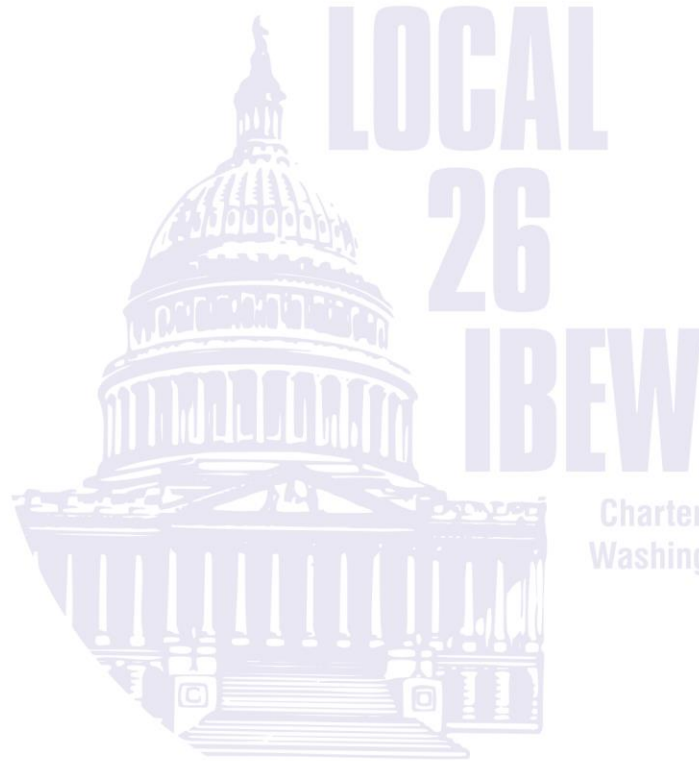
I ask the committee to look **favorably upon HB 391**. Thank you





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