

BILL: HB 630
TITLE: County Boards of Education - Student Cellular Phone Use Policy - Establishment (Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act)
DATE: February 10, 2025
POSITION: Oppose
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
CONTACT: Sam Mathias, Legal & Policy Services Director
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, **respectfully opposes House Bill 630, County Boards of Education - Student Cellular Phone Use Policy - Establishment (Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act).**

MABE certainly appreciates and recognizes the need for educators to maintain focus in the classroom and the attention of students during the school day.

However, MABE believes that by retaining decision-making authority at the local level, namely through policy from each individual board of education, local boards of education can best balance their educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and academic and financial accountability.

Legislation that limits local board decision-making authority may weaken the board's bond with its local community and adversely impact the community's participation in the governance and operation of their local school system. MABE advocates for State Board of Education and AIB acknowledgment of the governance role of local boards, and the need to preserve local discretion and flexibility when adopting statewide regulations and policies.

For these reasons, MABE respectfully opposes HB 630.