

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Wes Moore
Governor

Vincent Schiraldi
Secretary

Date: January 25, 2025
Bill Number/Title: HB68 - Public Schools - Children Suspected of Crime of Violence - Prohibition on In-Person Attendance (Student Protection Act of 2025)
Committee: Ways and Means
DJS Position: Oppose

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) opposes HB 68.

HB 68 prohibits a child from attending a public school if the child has been identified as a suspect in a crime of violence until an investigation is completed and the child is no longer identified as a suspect.

HB 68 unnecessarily keeps children out of school based solely on the suspicion they were involved in a crime of violence, undermining their education and increasing the likelihood of further involvement in the juvenile justice system. School systems are equipped to address student behaviors through a continuum of responses developed to support students and promote safety in the school community. Prohibiting in-person attendance prior to any formal court disposition will result in students being unfairly excluded, stigmatized, and penalized.

Research consistently shows that school engagement is a critical protective factor in preventing delinquency. Denying in-person attendance isolates students from a structured, supportive environment, increasing the likelihood of future challenges, including academic failure, behavioral problems, and involvement in the justice system.

For these reasons, DJS requests an unfavorable report on HB 68.

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