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BILL: House Bill 76
TITLE: Local School Systems – School Safety – Grant Allocations
HEARING DATE: February 17, 2025
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all 24 local boards of education across the State, **supports House Bill 76.**

House Bill 76 authorizes the reallocation of Safe Schools Fund grant dollars within the same fiscal year to local school systems that have fully expended their initial allocation and can demonstrate unmet need. Under current law, the Governor is required to allocate \$10 million annually to a fund supporting grants for local school systems and law enforcement agencies to provide adequate law enforcement coverage in public schools, including School Resource Officers and school security employees. Grants are distributed proportionally based on each system’s share of public schools statewide. While unspent funds revert to the Safe Schools Fund at the end of the fiscal year, they may not currently be redistributed.

This bill provides a practical and responsible adjustment by allowing unused funds to be directed to school systems with demonstrated need. Local boards of education appreciate the General Assembly’s recognition that school safety demands can vary across systems and fluctuate during the fiscal year. Allowing mid-year reallocation promotes flexibility, maximizes the use of appropriated funds, and ensures that available resources are deployed where they are most needed.

For these reasons, **MABE supports House Bill 76 and respectfully requests a favorable report.**