



HB0109 – INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS – TITLE VI COORDINATORS

February 10, 2026

APPROPRIATIONS

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB0109 – Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools – Title VI Coordinators**. This bill requires local school systems to designate Title VI coordinators to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. A Title VI Coordinator must: (1) have expertise in and oversee compliance with Title VI laws and regulations; (2) promote equal access to and participation in the programs and activities of the local school system; (3) provide training and educational resources regarding Title VI laws and regulations; (4) document complaints; (5) forward complaints to the State Superintendent; (6) maintain records and reports; and (7) perform any other relevant duties established by the local school system. Accordingly, a person alleging discrimination may file a complaint with the State Superintendent or, if applicable, the Title VI coordinator of the local school system or both.

This bill infringes upon local governance by requiring an employee within the school district to be designated as a Title VI Coordinator. In addition, the person holding the title would be required to respond on behalf of the school district to any complaint of discrimination filed under Section 26-705 of the Education Article, in much the same way that an attorney or Equal Employment Opportunity Officer (EEO) responds to a complaint of employment discrimination to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or other state or local fair employment practices agency (FEPA). The Coordinator would also be required to train others regarding Title VI, document the complaints, and maintain records relative to the complaints as filed. Sections 26-704 (discrimination prohibition) and 26-705 (complaint of discrimination) of the Education Article became effective July 1, 2022. The designation of a Title VI Coordinator creates an obligation of a specific person within a local school district to ensure that complaints under the law are being investigated, recorded and managed. Furthermore, since the inception of Section 26-705 of the Education Article, AACPS has not been advised by the Maryland State Department of Education of any such complaints filed under this provision of the law. It does not appear to be necessary at this point to designate a person for this role. Most related complaints have been filed directly through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and have been handled by the Office of General Counsel, the EEO/ADA Office, or Special Education. Even if AACPS were to receive a complaint from the state filed under the specified provision, the normal operating procedure would apply. Complaints would be thoroughly reviewed, and a response would be sent to the state as the law already requires.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB0109.