

BILL: Senate Bill 170
TITLE: Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth
HEARING DATE: January 21, 2026
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Budget & Taxation
CONTACT: Sam Mathias, Legal & Policy Director (smathias@mabe.org)

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, **supports Senate Bill 170, Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**, and appreciates the General Assembly's continued focus on ensuring Maryland's education funding system remains responsive, sustainable, and aligned with the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

As proposed, the bill would establish a Task Force to examine the timing and mechanics of student enrollment data, analyze how changes in student populations impact school funding, and develop recommendations to improve the delivery of education funding statewide. These are timely and necessary areas of study as Maryland navigates one of the most challenging fiscal environments in decades while the Blueprint continues to scale up. MABE welcomes the opportunity to designate a member to serve on the Task Force and contribute to this important work.

Senate Bill 170 also aligns with one of MABE's core legislative priorities: supporting policies that promote school district budget stability and provide practical, workable relief for local education agencies during periods of fiscal constraint. As school systems manage rising costs and expanded expectations as we continue to implement Blueprint reforms, thoughtful examination of funding structures, formula design, and fiscal responsiveness can help sustain progress without undermining existing programs or student supports.

The Task Force established by Senate Bill 170 would provide a constructive forum to advance these objectives and to help ensure Maryland's education funding system continues to improve, and remains stable, predictable, and capable of supporting long-term reform. **MABE thus supports SB 170 and urges a favorable report.**