



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony: HB352 - Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program - Personnel and Per Pupil Grants - Eligible Uses

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Date: March 31st, 2026

Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and esteemed members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Greg Wims, presenting House Bill 352 – Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program.

This bill is simple. It allows local education agencies (LEAs) to continue using Concentration of Poverty grant funding to meet arts education requirements, and other programs, under Maryland COMAR. This bill comes at the recommendation of AIB and local LEAs to ensure our state requirements are met in a cost-effective manner.

We all know how important arts education is, but I want to share a few quick statistics. Substantial arts learning has been shown to reduce disciplinary infractions by **3.6 percentage points** and increase writing achievement. That has a meaningful impact on both school climate and student learning, especially in schools with the greatest needs.

HB 352 ensures that the usage of these grants for arts education and other programs does not disappear due to the sunset.

This bill was cross-filed with Senator McCray's SB289 which was heard in this Committee on February 2nd.

I respectfully request a favorable report for HB0352. Thank you.