



**SB0147 – EDUCATION – AGREEMENTS, PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS, AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING – REPORTING AND PUBLICATION**

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EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**OPPOSE**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB0147 – Education – Agreements, Procurement Contracts, and Memoranda of Understanding – Reporting and Publication**. This bill requires that on or before September 1 of each year, all county boards, county superintendents, schools in public elementary or secondary systems in the State, the State Board, and State Superintendent report a list of each procurement contract or memorandum of understanding entered into in the proceeding fiscal year. The county board is authorized to submit this report on behalf of schools and the superintendent. The State Department of Education is annually required to issue a report compiling this information.

Additionally, before September 1, 2026, all local school systems are required to make publicly available on county websites each agreement the local school system entered into from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Any agreement entered into after this date is required to be made publicly available on the website within 30 days of the agreement being entered into.

This bill imposes redundant and burdensome reporting requirements on local education agencies (LEAs), including county boards, superintendents, and schools. There are multiple reporting requirements already in place for LEAs that mandate this information to be made publicly available. Section 5-112 of the Education Article requires LEAs to report contract awards over \$100,000 on eMaryland Marketplace Advantage, a public State procurement website. In addition, Section 5-115 of the Education Article requires LEAs to report to the Department of Budget and Management all expenditures exceeding \$25,000 to be posted on the State's Open Data Portal. Finally, AACPS posts contract awards over \$25,000 publicly at Board of Education of Anne Arundel County meetings.

Furthermore, AACPS already publicly posts contracts that are procured via competitive bidding at the time of award. However, there are hundreds of contracts awarded as micro-purchases every year ranging from field trips to consulting agreements valued at less than \$5,000. As this bill does not establish a minimum threshold for reporting procurement contracts or memorandums of understanding, all such micro-purchases would be required to be reported publicly in accordance with the bill. The amount of staff time required to track and publicly post these micro-purchases is impactful, while the fiscal impact from these micro-purchases is minimal.

Ultimately, the staff time required to meet the reporting requirements of SB0147 leaves less time for LEA purchasing staff to commit to their core mission to make sure staff and students are provided with the tools they need at a price that reflects the best value to the school system. Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB0147.