

ALONZO T. WASHINGTON  
*Legislative District 22*  
Prince George's County

Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 314  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3155 · 301-858-3155  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3155  
Fax 410-841-3699 · 301-858-3699  
Alonzo.Washington@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
Annapolis, Maryland

**Re: SB 863 – Prince George’s County Special Education Service Delivery, Transparency, and Accountability Act**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 863, the Prince George’s County Special Education Service Delivery, Transparency, and Accountability Act.

This bill is about one core promise: when a child with a disability has an IEP, the services in that IEP must be delivered—consistently, on time, and with the appropriate staffing. Families in Prince George’s County should not have to fight through repeated meetings, complaints, or due process filings just to secure what the law already guarantees.

SB 863 takes a practical, accountable approach. Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, it requires the school system to fund one-to-one student aide roles as full-time positions with salary and benefits—so these critical supports are stable and not treated as temporary stopgaps. It requires quarterly updates for at least 24 months with clear metrics on IEP service delivery, unfilled one-to-one assignments, vacancy and turnover, and compensatory services owed and completed—so the public can see whether the system is improving and MSDE can certify sustained compliance based on objective thresholds. It also strengthens capacity through required professional development training in special education services.

Finally, SB 863 ensures independent oversight by requiring MSDE to contract for a third-party audit of special education operations in Prince George’s County Public Schools for fiscal years 2021 through 2025, followed by a corrective action and strategic plan, with transparency and consequences if required records are not produced.

This is an emergency bill with a defined timeline and a clear purpose: improve service delivery now, restore trust with families, and strengthen outcomes for students with disabilities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 863.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alonzo T. Washington', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Alonzo T. Washington**  
Maryland State Senator