



SB0051: Public Schools – Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms –
Use of Video Recording Devices
February 4, 2026

Support IF Amended

The Arc Maryland is a statewide training, support, and advocacy organization that is dedicated to advancing and preserving the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This bill would require the installation of at least one video recording device in each self-contained special education classroom by the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Video recording has the potential to provide answers when there are questions or concerns about classroom incidents and students are unable to effectively share details of an incident or the cause of an injury.

SB0051 is drafted and based on a similar piece of legislation introduced in 2021, which was eventually withdrawn. **At that time advocates had shared concerns that the bill did not include safeguards for students to protect them from the use of video footage being used for discipline or to justify changes in placement. Advocates also agreed that surveilling educators should be disallowed in the use of these cameras as this may dissuade special educators from choosing to work in a self-contained special education classrooms.** The following year, in 2022, the bill was re-introduced including these important provisions.

The Arc Maryland may support SB0051 IF THE BILL IS AMENDED to include the following:

1. **Remove** the ability of **School Resource Officers** to view the footage since it is already available to a Law Enforcement agency if necessary (and the purpose of these cameras are not for student disciplinary

reasons)

2. Add:

The department, a county board, a school, or a principal may not use a video recording device made in accordance with this section:

- a. As evidence in a complaint against a student or school employee that is not related to a criminal complaint; or**
- b. In the observation or evaluation of a student for student placement decisions.**

We wish to thank the Sponsor and the committee for their consideration.

Ande Kolp, Executive Director

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