

March 24, 2026

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair, Education, Energy and the Environment (EEE) Committee
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Members of the Committee

In regard to 2026 House Bill 640 - Mandated Reports, Boards, and Commissions - Revisions

Please amend to remove the exclusion of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) from the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC).

Restated: Require MSDE to remain part of MBPAC by removing the edits to Transportation 2-606 from this bill.

I am the current Chair of the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC). House Bill 640 proposes to remove the Maryland State Department of Education (MDSE) as a legislatively mandated member of the Committee charged with advising the Administration on issues directly related to bicycling and pedestrian activity including funding, public awareness, safety and education. As outlined in Transportation 2-606 MBPAC is charged with providing guidance to State Agencies and public education is specifically mentioned in 2 of the 4 stated objectives of the Committee.

No discussion, no communication

The Administration did not provide any communication to the Committee prior to introducing this bill. The Administration did not solicit nor discuss removing MDSE from the Committee with the Chair or any other citizen member, nor any member of the General Assembly. The General Assembly set the required membership of MBPAC in 1991 and has not removed any agency or department from the required membership. In fact, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission was added to the Committee more recently. I only became aware of this bill after it had already crossed-over to the Senate. There are no keywords on this bill for Bicycle or Pedestrian. The proposed language regarding MBPAC is buried on page 37 of a 39-page bill.

Safe Routes to School, Walk to School Day, Pedestrian Awareness

MSDE plays a significant role in Safe Routes to School – an initiative focused on safe pedestrian and bicycle access for elementary and secondary school children.

There is another bill (HB486/SB526 - Public Schools - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day – Establishment) that is coming before EEE. That bill (from the bill synopsis requires “designating the second Wednesday in October each year as Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day to promote safe pedestrian routes to and from school; and requiring the State Department of Education to provide resources for a program of education for Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and to plan Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day.” This demonstrates that MSDE is viewed as a key participant in pedestrian related matters.

MDSE’s own Facebook post from the current school year calls out Pedestrian Safety as Back to School Tip #3!

Recent MSDE committee activity

MSDE representation in MBPAC provides a key perspective and provides a direct channel for communicating such matters with the Department. In 2025 MBPAC, at the Administration's request, issued a recommendation in support of the Department of Education's revised Physical Education Standards and Framework. This was brought to the Committee for discussion by the MSDE representative.

For all these reasons I request that edits to Transportation 2-606 be removed from HB 640.

Sincerely,

Jonathan B. Morrison
Brookeville, MD

[Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee - MDOT](https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/index.aspx?PageId=140) -

<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/index.aspx?PageId=140>

[Legislation - HB0640](#) -

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/legislation/details/hb0640/?ys=2026rs#>

[Legislation - HB0486](#) -

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/legislation/details/hb0486?ys=2026RS>

[#MDBacktoSchool... - Maryland State Department of Education | Facebook](#) -

<https://www.facebook.com/MdPublicSchools/posts/mdbacktoschool-tip-3-pedestrian-safety-now-is-the-time-to-review-bus-schedules-w/1188611859966968>