



Maryland Education Coalition



Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Jr. – Co-Chairs

Web site - www.marylandeducationcoalition.org

Email – md.education.coalition@gmail.com

April 1, 2026

House Bill HB 14 - County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Informational - Request to amend

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago (1980) and is the oldest, most experienced, and diverse public education advocacy coalition in Maryland. MEC advocates for adequate operating/capital funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for the nearly 900,000 students in Maryland's 1,350 plus public schools including charter schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status.

MEC believes sections of the bill as written are somewhat vague, requiring more specific language to limit or prevent subjective interpretation that may not be applied as intend and offer the following amendment.

Page 3, Section (IV) **IF THE INCIDENT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED 5 IN WHOLE OR IN SUBSTANTIAL PART BY ANY OF THE ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED 6 PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2)(I)1 OF THIS 7 SECTION, INDICATE THOSE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, IF KNOWN;**

- Please add the following definition for “Characteristics” based on official Maryland State Department of Education definitions for discrimination
 - o Characteristics defined “age, ancestry, color, creed, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, national origin, race, religious affiliation, belief or opinion, sex, or sexual orientation in matter.”
- SOURCE: Excerpt from MSDE [Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

MEC is concerned that without a definition of characteristics, decision-makers may interpret the policies differently, not with the intent of this bill.

Therefore, we urge the addition of the amendment above or language which more clearly defines the intent.