



BILL: County Boards of Library Trustees – Membership – Student Member (SB535) **DATE:** February 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Authorizing Student Members of County Library Boards of Trustees **COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

TESTIMONY FROM: Skip Auld, Chief Executive Officer, Anne Arundel County Public Library **POSITION:** Support, with Amendment

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

I want to urge a favorable report on this bill. **For the past three years, Anne Arundel County Public Library has had a Student Trustee and every one of them has been a fantastic addition to our Board of Trustees.**

In fact, our current Student Trustee Abby Chan is planning to testify before you on Wednesday at your 1:00pm hearing. She is a highly engaged, deliberative, and insightful Member on our Board of Trustees.

This bill leaves full control in the hands of local Boards of Trustees. Boards that decide to add a Student Trustee determine what level of voting rights their new colleague will have, either on policy matters alone or on budget and personnel matters, like Anne Arundel’s Student Trustee.

I do want to recommend a **friendly Amendment** to this bill. According to the Bylaws of the Public Library Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Inc., *“The student appointee may attend an Anne Arundel County Public School, private school, or be a homeschool student.”* However, HB586 authorizes only *“a junior or senior year student enrolled in a public or nonpublic high school in the county that the library serves, who is of good character and is in good standing in the student’s high school.”* **Please consider adding “or a homeschool student.”**

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On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Anne Arundel County Public Library, I request a favorable report on HB586.

Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of the people of Maryland!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Auld". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Skip Auld
Chief Executive Officer