



HB0473 - EDUCATION - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES - CLASS SIZE

February 17, 2026

GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB0473 - Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size**. This bill repeals the prohibition on a public school employer negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class.

This bill encroaches on local board authority and local school system decision-making. Management and instructional decisions regarding the number of students assigned to a class are based on myriad factors that should not be addressed through contract language. Establishing class size requirements within a collective bargaining agreement to negotiate smaller class size will be a costly arrangement. A mandatory negotiation requirement restricts the school administration's decision-making regarding the most effective use of resources, including allocations for staff, space, with existing limited funding. School systems are not self-funded but depend on federal, State, and county governments for funding which could create significant issues in instances where insufficient funding prevents the Board from meeting class size requirements. The school board and superintendent's authority should be maintained to make decisions pertaining to appropriate allocations of resources especially in instance where the union's interest is not aligned with managements' and does not fully represent the best interest of students.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB0473.