



BLUEPRINT FOR  
**Maryland's Future**

Accountability &  
Implementation Board

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**BILL:** House Bill 1396

**TITLE:** Commission on Blueprint Fiscal Sustainability and Student Achievement - Establishment

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Miller

**HEARING DATE:** March 12, 2026

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means


**POSITION:** **OPPOSE**

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The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) **OPPOSES House Bill 1396 – Commission on Blueprint Fiscal Sustainability and Student Achievement – Establishment.**

House Bill 1396 establishes the Commission on Blueprint Fiscal Sustainability and Student Achievement, with twenty-nine members, to study and make recommendations on the successful and sustainable implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, inclusive of the formulas used to fund public schools, statutorily required ratios, the impact of the career ladder for educators, whether the changes made to funding formulas under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future are the most efficient way to ensure all students receive a high-quality education, and any other issues the Commission identifies as relevant. The bill further requires that on or before December 31, 2026 the Commission provide an interim report to the Governor and General Assembly and a final report on or before December 27, 2027. The bill stipulates that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provide the staff for the 29-member Commission and, if required, that the Accountability and Implementation Board provide additional staff.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (the Blueprint) law (Chapter 36 of 2021), provided for independent evaluation, oversight, and outcome monitoring by establishing the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) as an independent unit of State government. As stipulated in Md. Code, Education §5-402, one of the responsibilities of the AIB is to evaluate the outcomes achieved against the goals of the Blueprint and the effectiveness of the Blueprint during its implementation period (July



1, 2020 until June 30, 2032. Additionally, the AIB is required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of funding formulas to ensure they are consistent with the Board's estimate of what is necessary for implementation.

In terms of reporting, statute requires that the AIB report annually, to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the general public on progress made on implementation and recommend legislative changes necessary to ensure adequate resources for implementation. In addition to the Board's own assessments and tracking of progress, the law also requires an interim evaluation, conducted by an independent entity, to evaluate "...the State's progress in implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and achieving the expected outcomes during the implementation period." Md. Code, Education §5-410]

The results of this evaluation shall be reported to the AIB on or before December 1, 2026 and October 1, 2030. On or before January 15, 2027, the Board shall report these findings to the Governor and General Assembly and include any legislative or structural corrections necessary to fully implement the Blueprint. [Md. Code, Education §5-410(d)(1)] And on or before December 1, 2030, the Board shall report the results of the final independent evaluation to the Governor and General Assembly. [Md. Code, Education §5-410(d)(2)]

While the bill requires MSDE to provide staff for the Commission, it also stipulates that the AIB provide additional staff if required. The AIB currently operates with a statutory cap of only 16 authorized positions, all of which are fully allocated to fulfill AIB's statutory duties. Fiscally, AIB has no excess capacity and would be unable to absorb the costs of staffing any part of the Commission within its current appropriation.

If enacted, HB 1396 would create duplicative roles and responsibilities with the existing statutory authority and oversight responsibilities of the AIB. The additional staffing requirement would require an increase or reallocation of resources, and the additional tasks related to staffing the Commission are not directly connected to the Board's current statutory responsibilities related to the effective implementation of the Blueprint.

For these reasons, the AIB **OPPOSES HB 1396** and urges an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT**. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at [joy.schaefer@maryland.gov](mailto:joy.schaefer@maryland.gov) or (410) 991-7623.