



HB 541
Public Schools – Restocking Menstrual Hygiene Products –
Requirement
House Ways & Means Committee
February 18, 2026

FAVORABLE

House Bill 541 requires County Boards of Education to regularly restock menstrual hygiene products in their dispensers in women’s restrooms in public schools.

In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB 205 mandating menstrual hygiene product dispensers be placed in every public school women’s bathroom. At the time, the intent of the bill was the installation of the dispensers as well as the stockage of menstrual products at no cost to students in elementary, middle, and high schools. Menstrual products are a vital resource, and the equitable availability of these products to menstruating students is imperative. However, access to these products can be a substantial challenge for families living at or near poverty. Hygiene products are not among the most donated products to food banks and assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC do not allow for their purchase. The effort of HB 205 was to ensure that these basic hygiene needs are covered in trusted and regular locations like schools, and ameliorate situations where families have to make difficult choices on which necessities to purchase.

Since enactment of HB 205, examples of only one-time filling of these dispensers has occurred all over the state. While technically within the confines of the law, this was not the intent of the original bill language. HB 541 corrects this unintended loophole.

Poverty Free Maryland strongly supports the ability of every Marylander to live with dignity and without the constrains and effects of poverty. We respectfully request a favorable report on HB 541.

*Founded in 2025 through the merger of Welfare Advocates (established in 1979) and Marylanders Against Poverty (established in 1988), **Poverty Free Maryland** is a coalition of service providers, faith groups, and other organizations working together to exchange information, educate decisionmakers, and advocate for statewide public policies and programs necessary to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty and ensure that low-income Marylanders are provided with low- and no-barrier access to all resources needed to thrive and build a better life for the future.*

Voting Member Agencies:

Anne Arundel County Food Bank

Baltimore Jewish Council

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Catholic Charities

Family League of Baltimore

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,
Inc.

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Poverty Free Maryland

Abby Snyder, Co-Chair

P: (240) 593-6121

E: ASnyder@baltjc.org

Anne Wallerstedt, Co-Chair

P: (410) 991-7285

E: AWallerstedt@mdfoodbank.org