

# EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

## HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

House Bill 123 – School Systems – Reportable Offenses – Alterations

February 5, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC) is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland. The (EAC) opposes House Bill 123 because of the potential disproportionate harmful impact it will have on students with disabilities.

House Bill 123 expands the list of offenses that are considered a reportable offense. Current reportable offense law mandates timely communication between law enforcement and schools when a student is arrested for a reportable offense, including the most serious offenses, crimes of violence, as well as non-violent, low-level offenses.<sup>1</sup>

After notification of a reportable offense, school districts have broad discretion to decide the involved student's placement. We often see students being placed on a virtual school placement. For students with disabilities, changing educational placement can be profoundly harmful. When a student with a disability is removed from their placement, they often lose access to their specialized instruction, related services (speech, occupational, and physical therapy) and accommodations. Even short-term removals can cause regression in academic and social skills for these students.

The reportable offense data from the 2024-2025 school year demonstrates a disproportionality between disability status and involvement in reportable offenses. While students who receive special education services or have a Section 504 Plan comprise roughly 18 percent of Maryland's student population, they account for a far greater share of reportable offenses. The data shows that students who receive specialized education or have a Section 504 Plan account for forty-four percent (664 out of 1,488) of reportable offenses.<sup>2</sup>

For these reasons, the EAC opposes House Bill 123.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup>Md. Ann. Code, Educ. § 7-303; COMAR 13A.08.01.17.

<sup>2</sup> See Maryland State Department of Education, *Reportable Offenses Data* (December 2025)  
[https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MSDE/ED7-303\(j\)\\_2025.pdf](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MSDE/ED7-303(j)_2025.pdf)

Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony: House Bill 123

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