



621 Ridgely Avenue, Suite 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-5414 · 800-841-8197 · Fax: 410-841-6580 · MABE.org

BILL: House Bill 1202
TITLE: Public Schools - Content Standards, Curriculum, and Bullying Policies – Culture and History of Palestine
HEARING DATE: March 10, 2026
POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Jessica Goff, Governmental Affairs Associate (jgoff@mabe.org)

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all 24 local boards of education in Maryland, respectfully **opposes House Bill 1202 – Public Schools - Content Standards, Curriculum, and Bullying Policies – Culture and History of Palestine.**

House Bill 1202 seeks to establish standards around implementation of Palestinian history and culture in curriculum. The Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE) would be required to develop content standards regarding the culture and history of Palestine to be included in the State Standards and Frameworks in Social Studies. The requirements for the content standards are outlined in House Bill 1202. Additionally, in collaboration with teachers, historians, civil rights organizations, and community stakeholders, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would be required to develop model curriculum guides and instructional resources aligned with the content standards and optional professional development resources for teachers on culturally responsive instruction and teaching sensitive historical content. Each county board, in collaboration with the local school system, would be required to develop and implement curriculum guides regarding the culture and history of Palestine, aligned with the content standards developed by MSBE.

MABE supports inclusive learning environments and we appreciate the intent of HB 1202. Per our longstanding resolutions, MABE supports the exercise of local board authority to ensure that local curriculum and instruction reflect the diversity, commonality, and right to be free from harassment and violence of all persons. However, also per our longstanding resolutions, MABE opposes efforts to usurp local board authority over public school curricula. While we believe all students should have access to a well-rounded curriculum that provides a variety of viewpoints and a historical narrative grounded in facts, curricular decisions are best left to the local school boards who are most responsive to their communities.

For these reasons, **MABE respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 1202.**