



BLUEPRINT FOR
Maryland's Future

Accountability &
Implementation Board

Chair
Isiah Leggett

Vice Chair
William E. Kirwan

Executive Director
Rachel H. Hise

Board Members
Jennifer M. Lynch
Joseph Manko
Contina Quick-McQueen
Justin Robinson
Robin M. Werner

BILL: House Bill 1555

TITLE: Education - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Oversight Requirements

SPONSOR: Delegate Miller

HEARING DATE: March 12, 2026

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means


POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) **OPPOSES House Bill 1555 – Education - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Oversight Requirements.**

House Bill 1555 establishes a Blueprint for Maryland's Future Stakeholder Advisory Council and a Joint Oversight Committee on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The bill alters the term length of Board members and authorizes a school or Local Education Agency (LEA) to appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings after receiving a decision by the AIB that funds will be withheld from release.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (the Blueprint) law (Chapter 36 of 2021), provides for independent evaluation, oversight, and outcome monitoring through the establishment of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) as an independent unit of State government. The roles and responsibilities of the bill's Council and the Joint Oversight Committee duplicate many of the roles and responsibilities assigned to the AIB by the General Assembly. With regard to an appeals process, the AIB established such a process as required by Md. Code, Education §5-405. The bodies established by the bill add an unnecessary layer of oversight between the AIB, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the General Assembly, and their operational framework may lack the agility that the AIB has with regard to addressing barriers and challenges to implementation in a timely manner.

Since its inception, the AIB has strived to work closely and collaboratively with implementation partners to achieve the goals of the Blueprint. One of its first actions was to establish Advisory Committees for each Blueprint pillar to ensure continuous, consistent, and intentional public engagement. The Advisory Committees meet regularly throughout the year to discuss Blueprint



implementation. The AIB strives to constitute the membership of each Committee to include a diversity of experience and expertise, and members that represent the geographic diversity of the State. Each Committee also has at least one student member.

The AIB has worked diligently to form authentic cooperative relationships with key partners, including the State Board of Education, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Governor’s Workforce Development Board, community colleges, educators’ associations, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, as well as with local governments through the Maryland Association of Counties. The Board is committed to working cooperatively with its partners to address challenges and barriers to implementation through establishing effective and thoughtful policy.

The AIB meets jointly with the State Board of Education several times a year to consider and enact implementation policies, and leadership from both Boards meet monthly. AIB staff meet monthly with the Blueprint Coordinators from every LEA, bi-weekly with the CFOs from all twenty-four LEAs, and at least quarterly with all school system superintendents. AIB staff conduct school visits, and last fall AIB Board and staff conducted in-person progress monitoring conferences with each of the twenty-four superintendents and their teams to discuss achievements and challenges.

The AIB has also provided flexibility to school systems when it is within the Board’s statutory authority, does not compromise Blueprint goals and progress toward outcomes, and if adjustments are rooted in evidence or data. Annually, according to statute, the AIB updates the Blueprint Comprehensive Plan, which guides State and local entities in implementing the Blueprint. These updates to implementation are directly informed by feedback and suggestions gathered in a robust public process and adopted on or before August 1, every year.

The Blueprint law requires the AIB to contract with a public or private entity to conduct an interim independent evaluation of the State’s progress in implementing the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and achieving the expected interim outcomes, including an assessment of the use of existing and additional funding to support this progress. The interim evaluation is due to the AIB by December 1, 2026, and the AIB is required to submit its report on the findings to the Governor and General Assembly by January 15, 2027.

The AIB maintains a continuous feedback loop through a structured, multi-tiered operational approach to monitoring progress, analyzing data, and proactively engaging partners and the public. In this way, the AIB can ensure its policies and decision making consider the feedback and perspectives from interest-holders, and that Blueprint implementation stays on track and the AIB remains responsive to emerging opportunities, challenges or barriers, and changing conditions.

For these reasons, the AIB **OPPOSES HB 1555** and urges an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT**. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at joy.schaefer@maryland.gov or (410) 991-7623.