



HB1060 – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS – PETITIONS FOR EMERGENCY EVALUATION – REQUIREMENT FOR TRACKING AND REPORTING AND STUDY

March 10, 2026
WAYS AND MEANS

LETTER OF INFORMATION

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) respectfully submits the following information regarding **HB1060 – Primary and Secondary Schools – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Requirement for Tracking and Reporting and Study**. This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and each school to implement a system to track and report petitions for emergency evaluations that are made during the school year. Each school is required to submit to the county board either each petition for emergency evaluation within 30 days after a petition was documented or a report that complies the petition for emergency evaluation reports collected by the school over a 30-day period each month. Additionally, each county board is annually required to submit to MSDE a compilation report of petition for emergency evaluation reports. MSDE is required to verify the accuracy of a report from any school that reports no petitions for emergency evaluation. If MSDE is unable to verify the accuracy of a report submitted by a school, MSDE is required to make recommendations for improvements in data collection at the school.

Subsequently, MSDE is required to submit to the General Assembly a report summarizing the data received from county boards for the immediately preceding school year and any other findings or recommendations for legislative action. Such a report is required to provide data disaggregated by school, age of student, gender of student, race of student, ethnicity of student, any disability of student, reason for the petition for emergency evaluation, and the number of times handcuffs were used during the process of carrying out the petition for emergency evaluation. This report is also required to be posted on MSDE’s website.

Furthermore, MSDE is required to convene a workgroup to: (1) examine the circumstances under which petitions for emergency evaluation are initiated in the school setting; (2) identify gaps in documentation, data continuity, and information sharing across education, health care, and public safety systems, including limitations created by State and federal privacy laws; (3) evaluate school-based mental health crisis response practices and training; (4) determine best practices to ensure petitions for emergency evaluation are used appropriate and consistently in school settings; and (5) recommend statutory, regulatory, policy and training improvements for the use of petitions for emergency evaluation in school settings.

HB1060 as drafted does not account reflect AACPS procedures regarding petitions for emergency evaluations of students. While petitions for emergency evaluations do occur within AACPS schools, AACPS employees do not make such requests. Rather, petitions for emergency evaluation of a student are made by the School Resource Officer or the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency Mobile Crisis Team. Accordingly, AACPS does not retain any information regarding petitions for emergency evaluation.