

BILL: Senate Bill 99
TITLE: Open Meetings Act – County Boards of Education – Enhanced Requirements (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)
HEARING DATE: April 1, 2026
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: Sam Mathias, Legal & Policy Director (smathias@mabe.org)

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State’s local boards of education, **supports, as amended, Senate Bill 99, Open Meetings Act – County Boards of Education – Enhanced Requirements (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act).**

Transparency and community engagement are deeply valued by Maryland’s local boards of education. Boards take seriously their obligations under the existing Open Meetings Act and consistently work to ensure that meetings, materials, and decision-making processes are accessible to the public. Local boards also engage their communities in a variety of ways beyond formal board meetings, recognizing that meaningful public engagement takes many forms.

Senate Bill 99 will require each local board of education to post meeting agendas and minutes on its website and to livestream each portion of a meeting held in open session. The bill would also require boards to maintain archived video recording of each open meeting for at least five years when livestreaming is available. Local boards already engage in these practices (as indicated in the [revised Fiscal Note](#) providing the link to each local board’s archived videos), except in limited situations where an open meeting format or setting is designed to facilitate community engagement rather than formal deliberation. This bill effectively codifies the strong open meetings act practices of our local boards.

MABE appreciates the sponsors’ incorporation of targeted amendments that enable Boards of Education to preserve effective governance and meaningful community engagement by providing limited exceptions to livestreaming for unique open meetings that are held in the community, to make an exception to the mandate to maintain unedited videos for instances depicting obscene events or events violating student privacy, and ensuring the video archives can be maintained either by a school system or third party vendor, like YouTube.

For these reasons, **MABE supports Senate Bill 99.** We appreciate the sponsors’ collaborative approach listening to and incorporating input. **MABE respectfully requests a favorable report.**