
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 966 – State Board of Education-Enforcement Procedures-Alteration

Dear Chairwoman Wilkins and Committee Members,

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I write to express support for House Bill 966.

Local boards of education are entrusted with significant responsibilities, including oversight of the county superintendent and the governance of our public school system. When a county board takes formal action to remove a superintendent or one of its members, it is essential that any resulting appeal be handled in a timely, structured, and predictable manner.

HB 966 establishes a clear 90-day timeframe for the State Board of Education to complete the appeals process in these cases, while preserving flexibility when due process or public health and safety considerations require additional time. This approach strikes an appropriate balance between protecting procedural rights and ensuring that disputes do not linger indefinitely.

Extended uncertainty during leadership disputes can disrupt school operations, undermine public confidence, and create instability within the education system. A defined timeline promotes transparency, accountability, and continuity of governance for students, parents, educators, and the broader community.

Harford County supports policies that reinforce responsible local oversight while ensuring efficient and fair review at the State level. HB 966 provides clarity to an appeals process that currently lacks a defined timeframe and helps ensure that important governance matters are resolved without unnecessary delay.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 966.

Yours truly,

Robert G. Cassilly