



1410 Bush Street (Suite A)
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-547-1515
Email: info@afscmemd.org

Patrick Moran – President

**HB 1254 – Education – Public Schools – Service Contracts and Professional Development
Ways and Means
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FAVORABLE**

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 supports House Bill 1254. House Bill 1254 establishes guardrails for local school systems when they engage in procurement for contractual services, while also providing employee protections for public school employees, who may be impacted by the procurement of contractual services. Additionally, the legislation provides that it is the intent of the General Assembly that high quality, in person professional development for education support personnel be expanded to 2 days per school year.

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents approximately 55,000 public service workers across all levels of government throughout Maryland including city, county, state, and higher education. AFSCME is proud to represent thousands of education support personnel throughout Maryland including transportation, food service, custodial, grounds and building maintenance, security, IT, and administrative and clerical staff. Education support personnel perform the essential operational functions our local school systems depend on everyday.

House Bill 1254 provides important guardrails before a local school system procures contractual services. Under the bill, a local school system must submit information to the Maryland State Department of Education including: i) a demonstration that the local school system has taken formal and positive steps to consider alternatives to the service contract; ii) a cost analysis that compares the cost of using the contractor with the cost of using school employees and specified cost savings the contract must achieve; and iii) a plan of assistance for any school employees that may be adversely impacted by the service contract. These requirements are comparable to existing conditions that apply for state service contracts and state employees.¹

AFSCME supports this legislation to ensure that our local school systems are utilizing public school employees for work that should be performed by public school employees. Local school systems use of service contracts should be subject to appropriate oversight to make certain decisions impacting schools, workers, and communities are reviewed thoroughly and satisfy important criteria. These evaluative criteria are relevant, promote the public good, and are already used in state government.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1254.

¹ See, MD Code, State Personnel and Pensions, §§ 13-401 – 405.