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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

**DATE:** February 25, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update

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### Purpose

The purpose of this item is to present the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Office of Government Affairs' legislative update to the State Board of Education. This month, the Department will be presenting an overview of nine bills for discussion to the members of the State Board of Education. As of Tuesday, February 25th, MSDE is tracking a total of 322 bills, not including bills withdrawn.

### Background

To date, there are:

- 201 bills with hearing dates scheduled by or before February 25, 2025;
- 112 bills with hearing dates scheduled after February 25, 2025;
- 9 bills with no hearing dates;
- 8 bills that have been withdrawn;
- 14 bills that have been cross-filed in the oppose chamber;
- 10 bills with favorable reports;
- 2 bills with unfavorable reports; and
- 196 bills with no movement.

The legislative process consists of a series of actions, including but not limited to:

- *Cross-file* – An identical bill is introduced in both chambers.
- *Hearings* – A bill is heard by the overseeing committee. Committees include standing committees, statutory committees, special committees, and select committees (commonly known as county or regional delegations). Special committees are usually temporary and go out of existence when their purposes have been fulfilled. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) assigns to the committees policy analysts who generally facilitate and support the work of the committees, including reviewing and analyzing legislation to identify legal and policy issues and drafting amendments, floor reports, and other informational documents to assist the chairs and members of the committees.
- *Bill Readings* – A bill has the potential to receive a first, second, and third reading, with the possibility of passage or failure. Once a bill arrives at a third reading and is passed, it has met its Maryland Constitutional requirements of three readings for passage in the chamber.

- *Favorable/Unfavorable Report* – A bill is reported to the floor of the chamber by a committee with a “favorable” recommendation that carries no committee amendments with it, or an “unfavorable” report. The report may be adopted or rejected. A bill may also be reported to the floor with a “favorable with amendments” recommendation to carry the committee’s amendments.
- *Conference Committee Report* – A report by a Joint House & Senate Committee, after the refusal of one chamber to concur in amendments adopted by the other, which proposes changes to pending legislation that are acceptable to both chambers.

### Executive Summary

The State Board of Education’s Legislative Subcommittee recommends full support of three bills, and support with amendments for three bills, totaling six bills with the position of ‘support’.

The subcommittee recommends supporting the following bills:

- **HB1006** - *Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act)* would have the Attorney General develop guidelines on immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations,” including schools and child care centers.
- **HB1025/SB0845** - *Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - NASDTEC Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)* requires all LEAs to become NASDTEC members and use the clearinghouse to screen educators. This allows insight into employment and disciplinary history.
- **HB0807** - *Information Technology - Modernizing Data Governance - Office of Enterprise Data and Council for Open Data Advancement* would develop and implement a statewide data strategy which could streamline and stabilize MSDE data processes.

The subcommittee recommends supporting the following bills with amendments:

- **SB0687/HB1121** - *Child Care Scholarship Program - Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program – Establishment* would enable the transition of child care payments from the Department of Human Services to the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program without a break in service, as long as the family’s income is below 85% of the State Median Income and the child is enrolled in a CCS-approved program at the time of transferring benefits. The committee does not believe a pilot program is necessary and supports removing that in an amendment.
- **SB0906/HB1391** - *Education - Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines, Professional Development, and Task Force* would develop a task force on AI in education which will develop guidelines and strategies on AI for country boards of education. MSDE would also work with the Department of Information Technology to compile an annual list of approved AI tools for LEAs. We plan to support amending the timeline on this bill and the operational impact on MSDE.
- **HB1303** - *Child Care Centers - Teacher Qualifications- Alterations* establishes a set of minimal qualifications for child care teachers. Teachers have two years to come into compliance with the standards of receiving a high school diploma, high school equivalency, or completing approved coursework at an accredited institution of higher education. The subcommittee believes the bill should be amended to have MSDE approve the “approved coursework.”

The subcommittee recommends opposing the following bills:

- **HB1326** - *Prekindergarten Saving Account Program – Establishment* would establish savings accounts administered by MSDE. MSDE is not a financial institution and is not set up to run such a program.
- **HB1264** - *Public Schools- Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer Programming Course* would allow high school students to earn mathematics credits by completing a credit in a certain college preparatory computer science or computer programming course if enrolled in the course concurrently with or after completing Algebra II. There are no graduation requirements in statute. MSDE and the State Board have processes and policies in place for updating requirements, and those decisions should be made via those processes.
- **HB1323** – *Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement* would require the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a unit of instruction on Asian American history. The subcommittee opposes curricular requirements and believes that all changes should go through the State Board’s process.

### **Action**

Requesting that the State Board of Education votes to approve the recommended legislative positions of the Board’s Education Policy Committee.

### **Attachments**

*February 2025 SBOE Legislative Update.doc*

**State Board Meeting – MSDE Legislative Update**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

**As of Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, MSDE is tracking a total of 322 bills.**

This does not include bills withdrawn. See below for information about bill hearings and bill movement.

**Bill Hearings**

Hearing On or Before February 25	<b>201</b>
Hearing After February 25	<b>112</b>
No Hearing Scheduled	<b>9</b>
Withdrawn	<b>8</b>

**Bill Movement**

Bills Cross-filed in the Opposite Chamber	<b>14</b>
Bills with Favorable Reports	<b>10</b>
Bills with Unfavorable Reports	<b>2</b>
Withdrawn	<b>8</b>
No Movement	<b>196</b>

## **Bills for Discussion:**

**[HB1006](#)** - Immigration Enforcement - Sensitive Locations - Guidelines and Policies (Protecting Sensitive Locations Act) - (Support with Written Testimony - Hearing 02/27 in Judiciary at 1pm)

- Requiring the Attorney General to develop guidelines relating to immigration enforcement at sensitive locations; and requiring State agencies that operate at sensitive locations to adopt certain policies or provide notice of a decision not to adopt certain policies.

**[HB1025/SB0845](#)** - Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - NASDTEC Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act) - (Support with Written Testimony – Hearing 03/03 in W&M at 11am; Hearing 03/05 in EEE at 1pm)

- Requiring each local education agency in the State to become an associate member of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) to utilize the Educator Identification Clearinghouse for screening educators and individuals who apply to be educators; and requiring each educator employed within the local school system to become a member of NASDTEC by July 1, 2025.

**[SB0687/HB1121](#)** - Child Care Scholarship Program - Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program – Establishment (Support with Amendments with Written Testimony – Hearing 03/05 in EEE at 1pm; Hearing 03/03 in EEE at 11am)

- Establishing the Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program in the Child Care Scholarship Program to assist foster youth in applying for and accessing subsidies in the Program; establishing that the duration of the program is from January 1, 2026, until December 31, 2028; and requiring the State Department of Education to report on the status and an evaluation of the Pilot Program's

goals to the General Assembly on or before December 1 each year of the Pilot Program.

**[SB0906/HB1391](#)** - Education - Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines, Professional Development, and Task Force (Support with Amendments with Written Testimony, pending – Hearing 03/07 in EEE at 1pm; Hearing 03/03 in W&M at 11am)

- Requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Education, and the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education to develop or update certain guidance and strategies on artificial intelligence for county boards of education; requiring the Department, in consultation with the Department of Information Technology, to develop and update annually a list of approved artificial intelligence tools; etc.

**[HB0807](#)** - Information Technology - Modernizing Data Governance - Office of Enterprise Data and Council for Open Data Advancement (Support with Written Testimony - Hearing 03/04 in HGO at 1pm)

- Establishing the position and responsibilities of the State Chief Data Officer; establishing the Office of Enterprise Data in the Department of Information Technology and the responsibilities of the Office; requiring each unit of State government to appoint an Agency Data Officer; renaming the Council on Open Data to be the Council for Open Data Advancement; and altering the membership, member terms, and responsibilities of the Council.

**[HB1303](#)** - Child Care Centers - Teacher Qualifications- Alterations (Support with Amendments with Written Testimony - Hearing 03/05 in W&M at 1pm)

- Requiring the State Board of Education to set minimal experiential standards as qualifications for child care teachers that require a child care teacher to hold a high school diploma or equivalent, have successfully completed certain courses for credit, and have successfully been employed for 2 years in a certain position for a registered family child care home or

licensed child care center; and altering the probationary employment qualifications for a child care teacher employed in a child care center.

**[HB1326](#)** - Prekindergarten Saving Account Program - Establishment (Oppose with Written Testimony - Hearing 03/06 in W&M at 1pm)

- Establishing the Prekindergarten Savings Account Program in the State administered by the State Department of Education; providing that the State shall deposit into an account of an eligible student a certain percentage of the per pupil amount of State and local funds for each education program in the resident school district for which the eligible student would be included in the enrollment count; and allowing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for deposits into an education savings account.

**[HB1264](#)** - Public Schools- Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer Programming Course (Oppose with Written Testimony - Hearing 03/05 in W&M at 1pm)

- Authorizing a student who is enrolled at a public high school to satisfy part of a graduation requirement to earn mathematics credits by completing a credit in a certain college preparatory computer science or computer programming course if enrolled in the course concurrently with or after completing Algebra II; and requiring a county board of education to certify to the State Department of Education that a certain college preparatory course may count toward the mathematics graduation requirement.

**[HB1323](#)** – Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement (Oppose with Written Testimony - Hearing 03/05 in W&M at 1pm)

- Requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a unit of instruction on Asian American history in public schools in the State; requiring each county

board of education to implement the Asian American history curriculum content standards in each public school in the county beginning in the 2026-2027 school year; and requiring each county superintendent of schools to ensure compliance with the Act.



## **Bills Reviewed by the State Board Education Policy Sub-Committee**

(since January 28, 2025)

[\*\*SB0431/HB0501\*\*](#) - Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act (**Support**)

[\*\*HB0389/SB0516\*\*](#) - Property Tax - Day Care Centers, Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers (**Support**)

[\*\*HB0627\*\*](#) - Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property – Application (**Support**)

[\*\*HB0785\*\*](#) - Common Ownership Communities and Zoning Authorities - Operation of Family Child Care Homes – Limitations (**Support**)

[\*\*SB0427/HB0498\*\*](#) - Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act (**Support with Amendments**)

[\*\*HB0859/SB0611\*\*](#) - Access to Health Insurance for Child Care Professionals - Outreach and Qualifying Nonprofit Satellite Organizations (**Support with Amendments**)

[\*\*SB0552/HB0688\*\*](#) - Education - High School Graduation Requirements - Financial Aid Application (**Support with Amendments**)

[\*\*HB0477\*\*](#) - Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Adult to Child Ratios – Alterations (**Support with Amendments**)

[\*\*SB0610\*\*](#) - Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program – Funding (**Support with Amendments**)

[\*\*SB0791/HB0732\*\*](#) - Public Schools - Career Ladder - Teacher Classroom Teaching Time (**Oppose**)

[\*\*HB0583\*\*](#) - Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Schools – Alterations (**Oppose**)

[\*\*HB0725/SB0879\*\*](#) - Institutions of Higher Education - Dually Enrolled Students – Alterations (**Oppose**)

[\*\*HB0763\*\*](#) - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking (**Oppose**)

## Letters of Information Submitted

(since January 28, 2025)

[HB0129](#) - State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal **(State Board Only)**

[HB0524/SB0462](#) - State Board of Education - Membership - Early Childhood Development Professional **(State Board Only)**

[SB0712/HB0923](#) - State Board of Education – Membership – Educational Support and Administrator Members **(State Board Only)**

[HB0056](#) - Procurement - State Department of Education - Control Authority - Local Food Purchasing

[HB0086/ SB0435](#) - Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators

[HB0457/SB0350](#) - Primary and Secondary Education - Educator Professional Development - Course on Student Well-Being and Flourishing

[SB0486/HB0672](#) - School Health and Wellness Personnel Assessment and Maryland Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers

[HB0359](#) - Prince George's County - Early Childhood Education Program, High School Child Care Centers, and Fee in Child Support Cases - Established PG 502-25

[HB0488/SB0714](#) - Public Schools - Discipline-Related Data - Collection and Publication

[HB0523](#) - County Boards of Education - Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism and Expulsion - Investigation and Reporting

[HB0630](#) - County Boards of Education - Student Cellular Phone Use Policy - Establishment (Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act)

[HB0911](#) - Real Property - Landlord and Tenant - Family Child Care Homes

[SB0899](#) - Education - High School Class Rankings and Guaranteed Admissions to Public Senior Institutions of Higher Education

[HB0875](#) - Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

[HB0993](#) - Education - Public Middle Schools - Course on Consequences of a Felony Murder Conviction

[HB0772](#) - Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students – Alterations

[HB0852](#) - Educational Institutions - Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications - Policy Requirements (Protecting Our Kids From Overdoses Act)

[HB0862](#) - Child Care Affordability Commission – Establishment