

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

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

DATE: March 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Legislative Update



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 discuss 7 key bills which crossed over from one house of the General Assembly to the other with the members of the State Board of Education. We will discuss the amendments these bills received and the work MSDE staff has done with legislators on those amendments. As of Tuesday, March 22, 2025, MSDE is tracking a total of 110 bills which crossed over from one house to the other.

Background

Of those 110 bills, as of Tuesday March 25, 2025...

Hearing Held in Opposite House	45
Hearing Scheduled in Opposite House	26
No Hearing in Opposite House Scheduled	39

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.

Bills for Discussion

- [SB0845](#)- Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - Educator Identification Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act) (Hearing in Ways and Means on March 26, 2025)
- [HB0477](#)- Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Adult to Child Ratios - Alterations (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on March 27, 2025)
- [HB1325](#) - Substitute Child Care Provider Pool Pilot Program – Established (no hearing scheduled in Education, Energy, and the Environment)
- [SB0770](#) - Public Schools and Youth Services - Crisis Support and Assistance and Workgroup Study (Hearing in Ways and Means on March 26, 2025)
- [SB0130](#)- County Boards of Education - Student Cellular Device Use Policy – Established (Hearing in Ways and Means on March 26, 2025)
- [HB1475](#)- Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten - Analysis and Report (Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act) (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on April 02, 2025)
- [SB0252](#)/ [HB0150](#)- Departmental Child Care Centers - Certificated Staff Ratio Requirement - Repeal (Hearing in Ways and Means on March 19, 2025; no Senate hearing scheduled)

State Board Meeting – MSDE Legislative Update

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

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Of those 110 bills, as of Tuesday March 25, 2025...

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Bills for discussion:

- [SB0845](#)- Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - Educator Identification Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act) ([Hearing in Ways and Means on March 26, 2025](#))
- [HB0477](#)- Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Adult to Child Ratios - Alterations ([Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on March 27, 2025](#))
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Other Key Bills which Crossed Over:

- [SB0068](#)- Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools - Comprehensive Plan (Hearing in Ways and Means on March 19, 2025)
- [SB0293](#)- County Boards of Education - Antibias Training for Members - Requirement (County Board Member Antibias Training Act) (Hearing in Ways and Means on March 19, 2025)
- [HB0879](#)- Task Force to Improve Attendance and Reduce Chronic Absenteeism in Schools (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on March 27, 2025)
- [HB1303](#)- Child Care Centers - Teacher Qualifications - Alterations (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on April 02, 2025)

- [HB1473](#)- State Government - Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals With Limited English Proficiency and Individuals With Disabilities (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on April 03, 2025)
- [HB0772](#)- Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students - Alterations (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on April 02, 2025)
- [HB0504](#)- Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act (no hearing scheduled)
- [HB1121](#)- Child Care Scholarship Program - Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program – Establishment (no hearing scheduled)
- [SB0431](#)- Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act (Hearing in Economic Matters on March 25, 2025)
- [HB0986](#)- Primary and Secondary Education - New Teachers - Retention Program (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on March 27, 2025)
- [HB0782](#)- Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and High Schools (Hearing in Education, Energy, and the Environment on March 27, 2025)
- [HB0888](#)- Education - Initial Teacher Certification – Qualifications (Hearing on Education, Energy, and the Environment on April 02, 2025)