

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS| Proposed Legislative Stances 2016

HB0018- Higher Education passes 2/6/16

Title: Maryland Education Opportunity Act of 2016

Sponsored by: Delegate Haynes (Democrat- District 44A, Baltimore City)

Committee Assignment: Appropriations

Summary: House Bill 18 is a bill to pay the tuition of eligible Maryland residents to attend in state community colleges. As long as the student has graduated from high school or received their GED within a 2-year time period of applying to a community college, they will receive free tuition from the state of Maryland.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Proposed Resolution:

WHEREAS, House Bill 18, if implemented correctly, will allow for a whole new group of college bound students to arise and reach a new level of education because of state sponsored financial support, and

WHEREAS, Under Plank III. P. of the Maryland Association of Student Councils Legislative Platform, MASC supports "Initiatives designed to keep college education affordable for Marylanders," and

WHEREAS, support to this bill will change millions of student lives in the state of Maryland and serve as an example for other states to follow,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils, a body of over one hundred Maryland middle and high schools and representing the academic, extracurricular, societal, and personal interests of all Maryland students, supports HB 18, entitled "Maryland Education Opportunity Act of 2016".

HB0029- Primary and Secondary Education: Student Health passes 2/6/16

Title: Education - Participants in Youth Sports Programs - Concussions - Penalties for Coaches

Sponsored by: Delegate Chang (Democrat- District 32, Anne Arundel County)

Committee Assignment: Ways and Means

Summary: HB 29 moves to require the State Board of Education to establish penalties for coaches who fail to remove a student from a game or practice after the student has received a concussion. If a student is suspected to have received a concussion and a coach continues to allow them to play, the coach will be suspended. This investigation and execution will be followed out by local Boards of Education. Coaches may also appeal their suspension with their local Board.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Proposed Resolution:

WHEREAS, HB 29 aims to protect players from further injury and penalize coaches that allow concussed students to continue playing or practicing, and

WHEREAS, Under Plank V.H. of the Maryland Association of Student Councils Legislative Platform, MASC supports "initiatives designed to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in youth", and

WHEREAS, HB 29 will prevent students from sustaining head injuries that can result in lifelong mental conditions

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils, a body of over one hundred Maryland middle and high schools and representing the academic, extracurricular, societal, and personal interests of all Maryland students, supports HB 29, entitled "Education - Participants in Youth Sports Programs - Concussions - Penalties for Coaches".

SB0323/HB0610- Environment passes 2/6/16

Title: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization

Sponsored by: Senator Pinsky (Democrat- District 22, Prince George's County)

Committee Assignment: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Summary: SB 323 Repeals the termination date for a provision of law requiring the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 25% from 2006 levels by 2020. It adds language to require the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 2006 levels by 2030. It further requires the Department of the Environment to submit specified plans in accordance with specified requirements to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before specified dates.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Proposed Resolution:

WHEREAS, SB 323 requires proactive measures to reduce Maryland's contribution of greenhouse gas emissions into the environment, and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gasses have been scientifically linked to the effects of climate change, and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of this bill will allow for additional time to realistically attain its goals, and

WHEREAS, under plank VI. F. of the Maryland Association of Student Councils Legislative Platform, MASC supports "State and community initiatives that encourage a cleaner environment,"

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils, a body of over one hundred Maryland middle and high schools and representing the academic, extracurricular, societal, and personal interests of all Maryland students, supports SB 323, entitled "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act – Reauthorization".

SB0461- Primary and Secondary Education: School Funding passes 2/6/16

Title: Education - Prekindergarten Students - Funding

Sponsored by: Senator Conway (Democrat- District 43, Baltimore City)

Committee Assignment: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Summary: SB 461 establishes specified funding for prekindergarten students. This bill alters the definition of full-time equivalent enrollment to include prekindergarten students in the number of students enrolled for purposes of calculating specified State aid formulas for education.

Proposed Position: Support

Proposed Resolution:

WHEREAS SB 461 alters the definition of "full-time equivalent enrollment" to include prekindergarten students in the total number of students enrolled for purposes of calculating State aid to local education, and

WHEREAS current State funding for education does not take into consideration the separate, per-student cost of education for students enrolled in prekindergarten programs, and

WHEREAS local Boards of Education do not currently receive additional funding to execute prekindergarten programs, and

WHEREAS prekindergarten programs are universally regarded as successful in and necessary to prepare students for success in primary school, and

WHEREAS under Planks III. G. and III. U. of the Maryland Association of Student Councils Legislative Platform, MASC supports "Early intervention programs to enable all children to start school ready to learn" and "Equitable funding per student across the state except in the case of special education students, pupils with limited English proficiency and students eligible for free and reduced meals," respectively,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils, a body of over one hundred Maryland middle and high schools and representing the academic, extracurricular, societal, and personal interests of all Maryland students, supports SB 461 entitled "Education - Prekindergarten Students - Funding".

JOINTLY: SB0493 and SB0512- Primary and Secondary Education: Teachers passes 2/6/16

Title: SB0493: Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Act of 2016

SB0512: Task Force to Study the Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Teachers in Maryland

Sponsored by: SB0493: Senator Pinsky (Democrat- District 22, Prince George's County)

SB0512: Senator Steve Waugh (Republican- District 29, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties)

Committee Assignment: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Summary: SB 493 increases to \$5000 the maximum amount of a State matching stipend awarded to certificated public school employees who teach in public schools that have comprehensive needs. It further establishes the Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Program and requires first-year teachers who participate in the Program to be afforded at least 20% more time for mentoring, peer observation, assistance with planning, or other preparation activities under the Program.

SB 512 Establishes the Task Force to Study the Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Teachers in Maryland. It requires the Task Force to study and make certain recommendations relating to the recruitment, retention, and promotion of teachers at all education levels in the State using the principles of human capital strategy.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Proposed Resolution:

WHEREAS SB 493 and SB 512 both aim, by means of a program and Task Force, respectively, to improve the quality and stability of Maryland's teaching force at the primary, secondary, and higher levels, and

WHEREAS the quality, stability, and advancement of Maryland's educators is directly related the quality of instruction for and level of success of Maryland students, and

WHEREAS the Maryland Association of Student Councils is composed of middle and high school students directly impacted by the quality, stability, and advancement of Maryland educators, and

WHEREAS under Planks III. R, III. S, and III. T of the Maryland Association of Student Councils Legislative Platform, MASC supports "Initiatives which encourage individuals to become teachers in Maryland," "Improved teacher training and other measures that improve quality instruction for students," and "Teachers and substitutes providing instruction only in subjects for which they are qualified" respectively,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils, a body of over one hundred Maryland middle and high schools and representing the academic, extracurricular, societal, and personal interests of all Maryland students, supports SB 493 and SB 512, entitled "Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Act of 2016" and "Task Force to Study the Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Teachers in Maryland," respectively.

SUBMITTED FOR ACTION, 2/6/2016

State Legislative Affairs Coordinators

Moved by: Matthew Saxton

Seconded by: Cameron Reed, Jamar White, William Anderson