

MASC Convention Legislation, Bill Synopses, & Proposed Stances

23/24-GA-01 - SB0033/HB0837

Title: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024

Sponsored by: Senator Rosapepe

Committee Assignment: Economic Matters; Finance

FOR requiring certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and provide a method for a student or a student's parent or guardian to authorize the release of the student's personal information to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; requiring each public high school to inform students of certain employment and skills training opportunities in a certain manner; etc.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Resolution: *23/24-GA-01 Authored by Mara Babb, Brenton Meade, and Daphne Wang*

WHEREAS, seeking high education is becoming less accessible due to high tuition rates and the repeal of affirmative action, and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Blueprint for Maryland's Future calls for all students to be College and Career Ready by the end of their 10th grade, and

WHEREAS, according to the MDSE Blueprint of Maryland's Future, between the school years 2020-2021 to 2021-2022, participation in apprenticeships in high school increased by 108%, and

WHEREAS, Career Readiness programs prepare students for entry to the workforce immediately after high school, and

WHEREAS, MASC supports "Secondary school work programs that alleviate the cost of continuing education." (MASC Platform, Plank VII; C), and

WHEREAS, this bill would alleviate the cost of apprenticeship entrance exams and industrial certification exams in counties where SAT and AP exams are already paid for, and

WHEREAS, MASC supports "School-based programs designed to introduce and prepare students for future careers and career fields." (MASC Platform, Plank VII; E), and

WHEREAS, MASC supports "Initiatives to increase Maryland youth preparedness to function effectively in the workplace." (MASC Platform, Plank VII; G), be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports [SB0033](#).

23/24-GA-02 - HB0047/SB0381

Title: Fairness In Girls' Sports Act

Sponsored by: Delegates Szeliga, Arian, Chisholm, Fisher, Grammer, Hutchinson, Kipke, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Miller, M. Morgan, T. Morgan, Munoz, Nawrocki, Schmidt, and Tomlinson | Senators Carozza, Bailey, Corderman, Jennings, Hershey, Mautz, Ready, West, Salling, Folden, McKay, Gallion, and Simonaire

Committee Assignment: Ways & Means/Education, Energy, and the Environment

FOR requiring certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain schools to be expressly designated based on biological sex; prohibiting certain entities from taking certain adverse actions against a school for maintaining separate interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams and sports for students of the female sex; and providing that certain individuals have the right to bring a civil action under certain circumstances.

Proposed Position: OPPOSE

Resolution: 23/24-GA-02 Authored by Mara Babb, Brenton Meade, and Daphne Wang

WHEREAS, MASC believes that every student deserves equal access to athletic participation regardless of their gender identity and expression, and

WHEREAS, this bill fundamentally excludes transgender students from their participation in school-sponsored sports, and

WHEREAS, a study from the American Psychiatric Association¹ found that about 82% of transgender youth are not out to their coaches because a high level of uncomfortability and fear of rejection, and

WHEREAS, “The Maryland Association of Student Councils vehemently condemns acts of oppression against LGBTQ+ youth coming from governmental organizations, including statewide legislative bodies and regional boards of education,” ([MASC Statement on Acts of Oppression Against LGBTQ+ Youth](#)), and

WHEREAS, “MASC does not discriminate on the basis of ... sex, ... or genetic information in its programs and activities and provides equal access and a welcoming environment to all groups,” (MASC Diversity Statement), be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils opposes [HB0047/SB0381](#).

¹ Richards, Drew D. "LGBTQ+ Mental Health and Participation in Sports." Edited by Claudia Reardon, M.D. American Psychiatric Association, 2 Nov. 2023, www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/lgbtq-participation-in-sports. Accessed 26 Jan. 2024.

23/24-GA-03 - SB0543/HB0004

Title: Institutions of Higher Education - Admissions Standards - Prohibition on Consideration of Legacy Preference

Sponsored by: Senator Brooks; Delegate J. Lewis

Committee Assignment: Education, Energy, and the Environment in Senate; Appropriations in House

FOR prohibiting institutions of higher education that receive State funds from considering a legacy preference as an eligible criterion for admissions standards at the institution; and allowing an institution of higher education to ask applicants for information regarding familial relationships to alums of the institution for data collection purposes.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Resolution: *23/24-GA-03 Authored by Mara Babb, Brenton Meade, and Daphne Wang*

WHEREAS, legacy applicants at elite colleges were nearly four times as likely to be admitted as applicants with the same test scores¹², according to an analysis conducted by Opportunity Insights, a research group at Harvard, and

WHEREAS, all students have the right to be considered equally based on their accomplishments and academic record, and

WHEREAS, this bill would set a precedent for private universities to reduce or entirely remove legacy preference from admissions processes, and

WHEREAS, the act of considering an applicant's status as a legacy originated out of discriminatory practices which sought to limit the amount of admitted students from a certain demographic³, and

WHEREAS, MASC supports "Programs that keep high achieving secondary school students in Maryland for higher education." (Plank III; Q) and this bill would allow more high achieving, first-generation students to attend Maryland public institutions, be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports [SB543/HB004](#).

² Miller, Claire Cain, and Aatish Bhatia. "How Big Is the Legacy Boost at Elite Colleges?" New York Times, 27 July 2023. New York Times, www.nytimes.com/2023/07/27/upshot/ivy-league-legacy-admissions.html. Accessed 9 Feb. 2024.

³ Blakemore, Erin. "Why Do Colleges Have Legacy Admissions? It Started as a Way to Keep out Jews." *History*, National Geographic, 28 July 2023, www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/legacy-admissions-college-anti-semitism-united-states?loggedin=true&rnd=1707591429932.

23/24-GA-04 - SB0762

Title: Education - Maryland Civic Excellence Program - Established

Sponsored by: Senator Kagan and Senator Ready

Committee Assignment: Education, Energy, and the Environment

FOR establishing the Maryland Civic Excellence Program as a voluntary program in which local school systems may participate to recognize students and public schools that promote the civic readiness and civic engagement of students in public schools in the State; and requiring by July 1, 2026, and each July 1 thereafter, each participating local school system to submit to the Department a report on the Program in the most recent school year.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Resolution: *23/24-GA-04 Authored by Mara Babb, Brenton Meade, Daphne Wang, Diana Bonilla-Prado, Nora Murthy, and Meerub Malik*

WHEREAS, MASC unanimously supported this bill in the 2023 Legislative Session, and

WHEREAS, this bill would encourage more students to engage themselves civically which would increase civic engagement while recognizing student achievement, and

WHEREAS, this bill would intrinsically award students by allowing for self-reflection, civic efficacy, and increased societal engagement, and

WHEREAS, this bill encourages involvement in student-ran civic organizations to keep youth informed on the legislative process, and

WHEREAS, MASC supports “School based programs and related activities that encourage civic participation” (MASC Platform, Plank II; J), be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports [SB0762](#).

23/24-GA-05 - HB0456/SB0386

Title: County Boards of Education - Student Members - Voting Rights and Participation in Executive Sessions

Sponsored by: Delegate Fair, Delegate Ebersole, and Delegate Grossman; Senator Lewis Young, Senator Charles, Senator Elfreth, Senator Muse, and Senator A. Washington

Committee Assignment: *Ways & Means; Education, Energy, and the Environment*

FOR providing that student members on certain county boards of education may vote on certain matters and may attend certain executive or special sessions under certain circumstances; and providing that student members of county boards of education have certain voting rights and may attend certain executive or special sessions.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Resolution: *23/24-GA-05 Authored by Mara Babb, Brenton Meade, Daphne Wang, and Diana Bonilla-Prado*

WHEREAS, with amendments, MASC believes that this bill can provide major increase in SMOB engagement, however, each county in Maryland should have full voting rights, and WHEREAS, this bill would expand the voting rights of many counties' student member on the board of education (SMOB), however, it would also limit the voting rights of counties with expanded voting rights such as Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Baltimore, and Prince George's County, and Baltimore City, and

WHEREAS, this bill would allow multiple student members on the board of education per county to vote, and

WHEREAS, MASC supports the "Student election of one or multiple student members, representatives, and commissioners on state and local Boards of Education with a full official vote" (MASC Platform, Plank I; B), and

WHEREAS, MASC supports the "allotment of full membership and voting rights for student representatives and members of state and local Boards, panels, commissions, and task forces" (MASC Platform, Plank I; E), be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports [HB0456/SB0386](#) with the following amendments:

- Maintain the existing voting rights of all student members of boards of education in every county/city where the bill adds restrictions, and
- Establish one collective vote for multiple student members in a county, and
- State that once a local board of education votes to expand a student board member's voting rights, it cannot revoke or modify the rights that it expands.

23/24-GA-06 - HB0373

Title: Election Law - Voting Age - Board of Education Elections

Sponsored by: Delegate Vogel

Committee Assignment: Ways and Means

FOR Authorizing the General Assembly to provide by suitable enactment the authority of a county to lower the age at which an individual may vote in an election for members of an elected county board of education; authorizing a county to enact a local law that allows an individual who is at least 16 years of age to vote in an election for members of an elected county board of education; submitting the amendment to the Maryland Constitution to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection; etc.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Resolution: *23/24-GA-06 Authored by Mara Babb, Brenton Meade, Daphne Wang, Zander Hine, Asad Farooq, Alex Mayen Velasquez, and Diana Bonilla-Prado*

WHEREAS, research shows that not only are 16- and -17-year-olds neurologically and socially mature enough to vote responsibly, they are as equally informed about and engaged in political issues as their older counterparts¹, and

WHEREAS, students are disengaged from democracy because they are not being provided adequate opportunities and resources to become civically engaged, and

WHEREAS, giving students 16 and older the right to vote in local school board elections will provide young people a greater voice in their education and potentially increase the diversity of a school board, and

WHEREAS, allowing people to participate in democracy at a young age may “facilitate the early development of a habit of voting,”² and

WHEREAS, MASC supports “systems, policy, programs, and instances in which youth and students are given an opportunity to share their opinion and represent their peers,” (MASC Platform, Plank I), be it hereby

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports [HB373](#).

¹“Institute releases let Us Vote: Why 16-and-17-Year-Olds Should Be Allowed to Vote in Local Elections and Beyond.” *New Jersey Institute for Social Justice*, 1 Sept. 2023, njisj.org/press_releases/institute-releases-let-us-vote-why-16-and-17-year-olds-should-be-allowed-to-vote-in-local-elections-and-beyond/.

²Wagner, Markus, et al. “Voting at 16: Turnout and the Quality of Vote Choice.” *Electoral Studies*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, June 2012, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4020373/.

23/24-GA-07 - HB1394

Title: Education - Provision of 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and Safe Schools Maryland Telephone Numbers

Sponsored by: Delegate Crosby

Committee Assignment: Ways and Means

FOR Requiring, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each county board of education to provide students in grades six through twelve with the telephone numbers of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the Safe Schools Maryland anonymous tip line by printing the telephone numbers prominently in the school handbook and printing the telephone numbers on a student's school identification card, if provided.

Proposed Position: SUPPORT

Resolution: 23/24-GA-07 *Authored by Mara Babb, Brenton Meade, and Daphne Wang*

WHEREAS, this bill would require the telephone numbers of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the Safe Schools Maryland Anonymous Tip Line to be disseminated among students, grade 6 through 12, on their school handbooks and student identification cards, and

WHEREAS, knowledge of available mental health resources will be ameliorated with the prominent and ubiquitous allocation of these contacts as a result of this bill, and

WHEREAS, crisis hotlines are invaluable resources to the prevention of self-harm and risky behavior among students¹, especially those in marginalized communities where thoughts of suicide are more prevalent², and

WHEREAS, students deserve the ability to easily access help, for the security of both their lives and the lives of their peers, and

WHEREAS, this organization is in support of “[e]fforts to prevent teen suicide” (MASC Platform, Plank V; J), be it hereby resolved

RESOLVED that the Maryland Association of Student Councils supports [HB1394](#).

¹“988 and the Research behind Suicide Hotlines.” *Columbia University Irving Medical Center*, 13 July 2022, www.cuimc.columbia.edu/news/988-and-research-behind-suicide-hotlines.

²“Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors among High School Students - Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27 Apr. 2023, www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/su/su7201a6.htm.