



House Bill 232

County Boards of Education - Spending - Reporting Requirement

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means Committee

WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: February 19, 2014

From: Robin Clark

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 232 WITH AMENDMENTS**. HB 232 would require each county board of education to submit a per-student funding report to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) every three years. The report must include the State, local, and federal per-student spending at each school for students who qualified for State funding for compensatory education, limited English proficiency, and special education, as well as magnet students and all other students. County governments and taxpayers would benefit from this additional information on county board spending.

Counties, along with the State, currently provide educational funding to county boards of education. According to the Department of Legislative Services, county governments spent 51.1%, or \$13 billion, of their budgets to fund public schools in fiscal 2012. As counties provide such a large portion of their budgets to schools, counties request that the bill be amended so that when the county board reports per-student spending to MSDE, they also report it to their county government. As budgets are developed yearly, counties would benefit from the per-student spending report each year (rather than the triennial cycle in the current bill), and ask that the Committee fairly weigh this potential benefit against the administrative burdens that it may impose on board staff.

For most counties, education funding exceeds the funding for all other programs combined. For this reason, counties are appropriate stakeholders in educational expenditure reporting, to realize long-term needs and opportunities for cost-savings through joint procurement or collaborative services and to ensure that the county's non-education spending complements the service offerings by its schools to best serve the community.

For these reasons, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 232.