



House Bill 1415

Education - Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means
and Appropriations Committees

Date: March 7, 2018

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1415. This bill would implement several policy recommendations based on the preliminary findings of the [Kirwan] Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

As a precursor to the Kirwan Commission's final report, HB 1415 would establish a comprehensive teacher recruitment and outreach program, the Maryland Early Literacy Initiative, the Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP) grant program, and the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Innovation grant program. Additionally, the bill would ensure funding for current prekindergarten grant programs and the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship program.

MACo has supported and will continue to support additional funding for our schools, including the programs outlined in this legislation. Additional state funding for initiatives such as extended day and summer enhancement programs, enhanced training for tutors, and providing additional resources for struggling students is especially beneficial in areas with high concentrations of poverty, where resources may be limited. Counties, who share responsibility with the State for funding Maryland's schools, appreciate financial support for their efforts to ensure that all students receive a high quality and equitable education.

This bill would implement policy recommendations that signal a new commitment to education on behalf of the State and support a growth trajectory of Maryland's education system. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1415.

