



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0296
TITLE: Family Law – Preventing or Interfering With Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect – Statute of Limitations
DATE: 2/12/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
[Danielle M Susskind @mcpsmd.org](mailto:Danielle_M_Susskind@mcpsmd.org)

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0296 **with an amendment**.

Under Maryland Law, an individual may not intentionally prevent or interfere with the making of a required report of suspected abuse or neglect. A violation of this provision is a misdemeanor subject to imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or both.

The proposed legislation would eliminate the statute of limitations for state prosecutions for intentionally interfering with child abuse reporting.

Most people who experience sexual abuse in childhood do not disclose until adulthood. Therefore, narrow statutes of limitation can prevent the punishment of perpetrators. Similar barriers may limit redress for intentional interference with required child abuse reporting. Given the research focused on disclosures of child sexual abuse, MCPS respectfully requests an amendment to specifically focus this shift in the statute of limitations on child sexual abuse.

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation **with an amendment** and urges a favorable report.