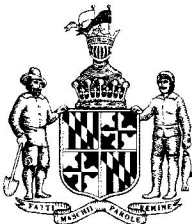


JULIAN IVEY
Legislative District 47A
Prince George's County

Ways and Means Committee

Vice Chair

Prince George's County House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Thank you Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

For the record, Delegate Julian Ivey here to present HB 1344.

What this bill would do is alter requirements for montessori teachers to be qualified to teach in Montessori public schools. Under the current system, these teachers have to get a second license and do an additional 1-3 years of coursework. They have to get two licenses. This bill would remove that requirement and effectively help us get more of these teachers in the classroom, more quickly and more cost effectively.

This is a cross-file of Senator Smith's bill, and it is a reintroduction of a 2018 bill.

This is about expanding children's access to Montessori public education, which, of course, is free. Right now, the demand for this type of education greatly exceeds the supply, and the evidence for that is the sizes of the waitlists we see at these schools.

Under the current system, schools are having to pay to get these teachers get the second certification. If we remove that burden, we save schools money. That's money that could be used for teacher pay or any of the many other expenses that schools have. What we want is for these already highly trained and qualified teachers to be accredited without having to jump through overburdensome hoops.

Also, this is not about giving special treatment to Montessori teachers. In most cases, the teachers this bill covers already have master's degrees. And, if we pass this bill, these teachers will still get evaluated the same way that other teachers do, when it comes time to consider things like compensation.

Finally, just to put this into context, we're not asking Maryland to wade into uncharted territory here: ten other states already allow this type of pathway to licensure for Montessori teachers.

And, with that, Madame Chair, I urge a favorable report on HB1344. Thank you.
Delegate Julian Ivey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Ivey", written over the printed name.