



**HB223 CRIMINAL LAW – PERSON IN A POSITION OF AUTHORITY – SEXUAL OFFENSES WITH A
MINOR**

January 25, 2022
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB223 Criminal Law - Person in a Position of Authority - Sexual Offenses With a Minor**. This bill expands the definition of a “person in a position of authority” under the fourth-degree sexual offense statute. The bill also expands the application of the fourth-degree sexual offense statute to include specified individuals. Finally, the bill establishes that unless specifically charged by the State, a violation of the fourth-degree sexual offense statute cannot be a lesser included offense of any other crime.

Safety in public schools is increasingly important to local boards of education. AACPS supports legislation and program initiatives that contribute to the safety and well-being of students in school and in the community. Accordingly, AACPS supports the expansion of the definition of “person in position of authority” in Maryland law to encompass part-time, temporary, and contract employees of public and private schools as it relates to prosecution for sex offenses against minors.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB223.