



SB238 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CROSSING GUARDS - HIRING AND BUDGET ALLOCATION

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB238 Public Schools - Crossing Guards - Hiring and Budget Allocation**. This bill requires each county board of education to require the local school system to hire school crossing guards for each public school in the county and to provide sufficient funding in the county board budget. It requires the county police department, if the county board is not able to provide sufficient funding, to hire the additional number of school crossing guards necessary to provide school crossing guards for each public school in the county and to provide sufficient funding in the county police department budget.

This legislation would “**REQUIRE THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM TO HIRE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY...**” In accordance with the Anne Arundel County Code, the responsibility to employ and provide crossing guards is that of the Anne Arundel County Police Department, which employs approximately 125-150 crossing guards at any given time. This bill would create staff workload issues, which AACPS opposes. Attrition resulting from resignation, normal retirement, injury, and other factors requires continuous recruitment, training, and management. Additionally, recruiting and retention is particularly difficult given historical low pay rates for a 10-month, seasonal position that does not guarantee substantial hours of work.

If enacted, this bill would be an unfunded mandate and create workload issues for AACPS staff which would cost the district approximately \$1.4 million each year. AACPS opposes legislation that creates unfunded mandates and increase staff workloads. This legislation would impose the burden on AACPS of hiring sufficient staff to manage, train, and supervise crossing guards deployed in locations throughout the County. In supervising crossing guard performance, police department personnel have the current advantage of mobility as a normal part of their structure. AACPS would not have such an advantage, necessitating the procurement of staff and vehicles be procured and assigned to daily crossing guard supervision and performance management.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB238.