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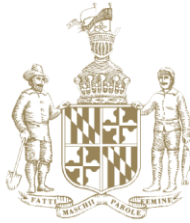
Health and Government  
Operations Committee

Government Operations and  
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Public Health and Minority  
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Rules and Executive  
Nominations Committee

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## *The Maryland House of Delegates*

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### **HB 805 – Primary and Secondary Education – Virtual Schools – Alterations**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland schools quickly pivoted to online/virtual learning. We learned during this time that education is changing and new technologies and innovations have the potential to create enriched learning experiences. While many students and teachers were happy to return to in-person learning, there are still some students and families **who thrived and would prefer to continue in this mode**. Given the chance they would opt to continue with virtual learning as their children performed better academically online.

#### **What problem are we trying to solve?**

As students returned to the traditional model post-pandemic classrooms, there is no option for them to continue with virtual learning. HB805 will enable a county board of education, the State Department of Education, or a public institution of higher education with a preK-12 education program to establish a full-time public virtual school in Maryland. **There are 33 states that already have a full-time virtual option for students.**

Online learning will continue to improve and create innovative learning platforms and resources. Instructional designers go beyond simply creating teaching materials. They carefully consider how students learn and what materials and methods will most effectively help individuals achieve their academic goals. The teachers, staff and administrators are trained to deliver education online. The ability to reach students in a remote environment effectively through on-line learning is exceptional. The possibilities for special needs students are also impressive.

Online and virtual learning is here to stay. Companies like Pearson Education, located in Columbia, Maryland offers full-time virtual learning programs. HB 805 will enable Maryland public schools to use the expertise of Pearson or other education companies to deliver quality online education.

**Maryland public school students should have the option to continue in a full-time virtual school.**

**Please Vote in Favor of HB 805**