



## HB136 EDUCATION - PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS - SEIZURE ACTION PLANS (BRYNLEIGH'S ACT)

January 20, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB136 Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)**. This bill requires a county board of education and authorizes a nonpublic school, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, to require two school personnel at a school to be trained in certain seizure recognition and response methods. It also requires a public school, beginning in a certain school year, to provide training to all school personnel with direct contact and supervision of students on seizure recognition and response methods. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with the Epilepsy Foundation of America and stakeholders, are required to develop guidelines and a training program for school personnel on the health care needs of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder. The parent/guardian of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder must collaborate with school personnel to create a seizure action plan.

AACPS recognizes the importance of developing a healthy school environment which promotes student health, well-being, and the ability to learn. However, AACPS generally opposes legislation or efforts to limit the authority of the local school board to set policy related to school nutrition and health.

We have concerns with the training requirements in the legislation. A seizure education course would need to be fully consistent with the guidelines published by the American Epilepsy Foundation and it will be extremely difficult to train all AACPS staff – administration, teachers, therapists, counselors, classroom aids, bus drivers, all contracted employees, and any other personnel in contact with students as required under the bill. This provision creates an employee workload issue. Accordingly, AACPS recommends that the bill be amended to strike this requirement to train all staff and only require school nurses or health room staff to receive the training. It is important to note that seizures take on varying characteristics and that school nurses and health room staff are the best equipped staff to address a situation where a seizure is taking place.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB136.