

March 6, 2024

**Testimony on SB 1026
County Boards of Education – Budgets – Notice (Transparency in Education Spending Act)
Education, Energy, and the Environment**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in favor of SB 1026, which would take steps to standardize and increase transparency around the County Boards of Education budget approval process.

We are in strong support of transparency for Maryland citizens. Posting a copy of the annual school board budget in an easily identifiable place on the county website will allow parents, educators, policymakers, and all county residents greater access to information on how their tax dollars are being spent, and where the budgetary shortfalls lie. Providing easy access to these materials will hopefully lead to an increase in civic engagement for county residents – and especially young people attending public schools, who these budgetary decisions will most directly affect.

SB 1026 would increase transparency for Maryland citizens, and for those reasons, we urge a favorable report.