



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6115 | www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education

TO: Ways and Means, Education, Energy, and the Environment,
Finance, Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

FROM: Policy and Governance Committee

DATE: March 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Bills the Prince George's County Board of Education Supports,
Supports with Amendments and Opposes - Week of March 11,
2024

Overview

This memo aims to give insight into the bills that the Board of Education in Prince George's County supports, opposes, or backs with amendments for the week of **March 11, 2024**. It also explains how each bill aligns with the [Board's Legislative Platform for 2024](#). In addition, the memo provides specific notes or amendments for each bill, if applicable. This list is not exhaustive and identifies bills we consider to be high-impact.

PGCPS Board Positions:

The Board **supports and supports with amendments*** the following bills:

- 1) [HB 0407](#) - Food Supplement Benefits - Students - Eligibility (SNAP for Students)
- 2) [SB 0780/HB 0772](#) - Internet-Connected Devices and Internet Service Providers - Default Filtering of Obscene Content (Maryland Online Child Protection Act)
- 3) [SB 0200](#) - Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools*
- 4) [HB 0364](#) - Prince George's County - Traffic Control Device Monitoring Systems - Authorization PG 301-24*

The Board **opposes** the following bills:

- 1) [HB 1485](#) - Public Schools - Water Safety and Swimming Course - Established

Please consult Appendix A.1 for detailed information on the Board's stance and supplementary remarks on supported bills, and refer to Appendix A.2 for more details on the Board's position and additional notes regarding the bills that the Board opposes.

PGCPS Board Support/Oppose Rationale:



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The Board decides whether to support or oppose bills based on how well they align with its legislative platform. If a bill will help the board and school district address student, teacher, and school needs without adding unfunded mandates, for example, it will receive the board's support. However, some of the bills presented to the General Assembly this week include prescriptive curriculum mandates that the Board believes are inappropriate for legislators to impose. The subsequent charts provide more detailed information about these specific priorities.

Conclusion

Please take note of the following reasons why the Board requests your consideration for our support or opposition to the bills listed below. We appreciate your review of our recommendations and are always available to answer any questions. You may contact any of the following: Jonathan Briggs, Policy and Governance Chair (jonathan.briggs@pgcps.org); Robin Welsh, Director, Office of Government Relations (robin.welsh@pgcps.org); or Shelby McRae, Administrator, Office of Government Relations (shelby.mcrae@pgcps.org). Thank you.



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Appendix

A.1 - Bills P&G Supports and Supports with Amendments*

#	Bill Number/Name	P&G Platform Priority	Bill Purpose	Note
1.	HB 0407 - Food Supplement Benefits - Students - Eligibility (SNAP for Students)	Funding for Success	Requiring the Department of Human Services to provide food supplement benefits to students who are residents of the State, are enrolled in an institution of higher education for at least 15 credit hours per year, whose family contribution is expected to be \$0, and who are eligible to participate in a certain work study program; and requiring, for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation sufficient to reimburse the Department for certain expenditures.	Currently, we have students who are enrolled in institutions of higher education taking up to 15 hours of credit per year, particularly in our early/middle college programs. This bill will allow those students' whose family income meets the eligible income threshold, invaluable access to benefits for them. This bill is also in-line with our Legislative Platform because we do support bills that enhance student welfare.
2.	SB 0780/HB 0772 - Internet-Connected Devices and Internet Service Providers - Default Filtering of Obscene Content (Maryland Online Child Protection Act)	School and Community Safety	Prohibiting a person from selling an Internet-connected device that is intended for minors unless the device is sold with a certain filter, certain privacy settings, and other features; making a violation of the prohibition an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice that is subject to the enforcement and penalties under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act; requiring that preference be given to certain grant applications that include the use of broadband providers that implement the use of certain filters; etc.	None.
3.	SB 0200 - Counties - Construction of	School and Community Safety	Requiring a county board of education each year to prepare and post to the county's	Concerning SB200, safe walking access to school is an important issue



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	<p>Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools*</p>		<p>website a report that identifies pathways that public school students may use to travel to school using only safe alternative routes under certain circumstances; requiring the governing body of a county each year to review a certain report and construct any sidewalks and crosswalks necessary to create safe alternative routes for public school students under certain circumstances; etc.</p>	<p>for many parents, especially in light of the deaths of two students. It also aligns well with PGCPs' Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), focusing on the district's commitment to low-carbon school transportation by increasing walking, biking, and public transportation. The language would be less burdensome if it was assigned to a similarly structured agency, like a department of public works. Placing this requirement on the school system will require the creation of a new unit to focus on this function, which would at minimum need two full time employees to manage this function and a contract with a traffic safety engineering firm to conduct the research and provide the information.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>HB 0364 - Prince George's County - Traffic Control Device Monitoring Systems - Authorization PG 301-24*</p>	<p>School and Community Safety</p>	<p>Authorizing the use of traffic control device monitoring systems in Prince George's County by State and local agencies, if authorized by local law; providing that the owner or driver of a motor vehicle recorded failing to obey a traffic control device is subject to a citation and a certain civil penalty under certain circumstances; establishing certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a traffic control device monitoring system; etc.</p>	<p>Concerning HB0364, we support the legislation with an amendment to the fine schedule. The type of violation should determine the fine. The more egregious the violation, the higher the fine should be. The \$40.00 fine is too low and should be a graduated scale starting at \$40.00 and increasing depending on the type of traffic control device in use. Example: Crossing a lane marking should be a small fine, but making a left turn in an area where it is prohibited and unsafe should be a higher fine.</p>



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A.2 - Bills P&G Opposes

#	Bill Number/Name	P&G Position	Bill Purpose	Notes
1.	HB 1485 - Public Schools - Water Safety and Swimming Course - Established	Curriculum, Assessments, and Grading	Requiring the State Board of Education to develop, by July 1, 2025, curriculum content for an elective course in water safety and swimming for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12; requiring, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, county boards of education to implement the water safety and swimming curriculum content for students in kindergarten through grade 12 in public schools in the county; and authorizing a public school to partner with a local parks and recreation facility for certain purposes.	The impact of the unfunded curricular mandate, which would mandate changes to the curriculum and instructional standards for the swimming curriculum, would be untenable or challenging as a requirement for all public schools in the county.