

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Opposition of House Bill 1027  
Education – Primary and Secondary Schools – Alternative  
School Options (Right to Learn Act)**

**February 21, 2024**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (the Board) understands the concerns that the sponsor has in ensuring that all students receive an appropriate and adequate education. However, the Board must oppose House Bill 1027 as legislation that would not promote this concept and would have a disproportionate impact on districts such as Baltimore City Public Schools.

Not only does the Board anticipate a negative fiscal impact as a result of the proposed legislation because of the magnitude given the bill's wide array of variables, but to the extent that Baltimore City has more two star schools than most jurisdictions, we expect a disparate impact on our school district as we will be required to remit funds to MSDE for students wishing to transfer.

However, this legislation does not take into account that while Baltimore City has more two star schools in the State than others, we have outpaced the State in our star rating improvement on the Maryland Report Card. The school system should be given credit for such improvement and not penalized. 27% of our City Schools improved compared to 8% of schools across the state. In addition, the proportion of 3-, 4-, and 5-star rated schools in City Schools increased 10 percentage points.

Another concerning aspect of the proposed legislation is the provision requiring school systems to pay for a “violent” student to attend military boarding school. The bill fails to define “violent,” as well as fails to address the necessary remediations or therapy that may be needed for such “violent” students, which is clearly what is needed as opposed to sending them to military school.

For the forgoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 1027 and urges an unfavorable report.

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