The Anne Arundel County Board of Education OPPOSES House Bill 270 - Environment - Testing for Lead in Drinking Water - Public and Nonpublic Schools. This bill would require the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to adopt regulations, on or before October 1, 2017, to require periodic testing for the presence of lead in each drinking water outlet located in an occupied public or nonpublic school building. The regulations must include the requirement that school systems repair or replace a drinking water outlet, plumbing or water line if deemed necessary. House Bill 270 would also authorize the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to provide a waiver from testing requirements under specified circumstances. By December 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, MDE and MSDE must report to the Governor and specified legislative committees on the findings of the testing required by the bill.

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education opposes legislative, executive, or agency initiatives that have the effect of reducing or circumscribing local board authority or create unfunded mandates. House Bill 270 is an unfunded mandate that interferes with local authority. This bill would require the Department of the Environment and the State Department of Education to become involved in matters and responsibilities that currently fall under the jurisdiction of local school systems.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges an UNFAVORABLE committee report on House Bill 270.