The Anne Arundel County Board of Education OPPOSES House Bill which adds an additional graduation requirement that on or after January 1, 2018 students have to take and achieve a passing score on a civics test that consists of the 100 questions used for the civics portion of the naturalization test administered by the U.S. Citizenships and Immigration Services. The State Board shall determine the means of providing each high school student an opportunity to take the civics test required (on or before the first day of the 2017-18 school year). A student shall answer at least 60% of the questions on the civics test correctly. A student may repeat taking the civics test until the student achieves a passing score. Each county board shall indicate on the official education record of each high school student whether the student has complied with the requirements of this section.

The authority to establish curriculum and assessment is the domain of the State Board and the local boards, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both the curriculum and assessments. In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the Maryland General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for content standards and curriculum. The State Board establishes state standards and the local boards adopt and implement locally developed programs.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the Ways and Means Committee to issue an UNFAVORABLE Report on House Bill 324.