



## HB536 EDUCATION - PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS - VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

February 21, 2019

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB536 Education - Public Charter Schools - Virtual Learning Programs**. This bill alters the definition of "public charter school" to include a virtual learning program.

This proposed legislation would authorize a virtual charter school to exist and operate outside of the district in which it serves students. AACPS believes that charter schools should be established in response to an unmet need or unmet resources a school system cannot provide. Charter school operators should collaborate with the school system, in a strategic manner, to ensure alignment with school district initiatives for additional school choice for students and parents.

Additionally, AACPS currently offers all high school students virtual learning enhancement opportunities through MSDE's Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunity and via other MSDE-approved vendor courses. Students can earn high school credits studying virtually from inside our high schools. Moreover, if a student wishes to earn a high school diploma virtually, this can be accomplished through Home Instruction where the student may choose from two MSDE-approved virtual schools that have been approved to teach and issue high school diplomas in the State of Maryland.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB536.