



**HB1242 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS - VISION SERVICES AND THE VISION FOR MARYLAND
PROGRAM**

March 7, 2019

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB1242 Public School Students - Vision Services and the Vision for Maryland Program**. This bill requires each county board of education to coordinate with the Vision for Maryland Program to ensure that certain students are able to receive eye examinations and, if necessary, eyeglasses. The bill also requires each county board or county health department to provide eye examinations for students, and it establishes the Vision for Maryland Program.

Local school systems or local health departments are already required to provide hearing and vision screenings for all students in local public schools. Student health rooms at AACPS are staffed by staff from the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, and it is this staff that conducts vision screenings at our schools. While this legislation is well-intentioned, AACPS has concerns with the requirement that county boards of education coordinate with the Vision for Maryland Program to ensure that students receive eye examinations and, if necessary, eyeglasses. Such a responsibility does not fall on a county board of education. We believe that the responsibility to ensure that students receive eyeglasses, when necessary, would be best executed by the Maryland Department of Health or staff with the Vision for Maryland Program as these are the entities who would be responsible for implementing the Program as established under this bill.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1242.