



HB1157 EDUCATION - STUDENT GRADES - PURPOSEFUL MISREPRESENTATION

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1157 Education - Student Grades - Purposeful Misrepresentation**. This bill prohibits a person from altering a grade of a student to purposefully misrepresent the student's performance, knowledge, or achievement in a course. The bill applies to a grade received by a student in a public primary or secondary school or a private noncollegiate educational institution. A teacher or other instructor may award extra credit. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment for up to one year.

AACPS opposes this legislation because it is unnecessary. State law already governs the removal and discipline of public school teachers. Under current law, a teacher may be suspended or dismissed for immorality, misconduct, insubordination, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty. Altering or misrepresenting student grades would fall within those categories. In addition, each local school system has an employee handbook that specifically articulates expectations and disciplinary protocols for staff. Finally, we do not believe that such actions warrant prison time.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1157.