



SB243 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS - HEALTH EDUCATION - GAMBLING DANGERS AND ADDICTION

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB243 Public High Schools - Health Education - Gambling Dangers and Addiction**. This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop, by July 1, 2022, a program of health education on the dangers of gambling and gambling addiction to be provided in public schools. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each local board of education must annually require middle and high schools to include instruction on the dangers of gambling and gambling addiction in grades 6 through 12.

While this legislation is well-intentioned, AACPS supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, courses of instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board of Education. In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for guiding and delivering a high-quality statewide system of public education through State standards and accountability measures, and locally governed and administered curriculum, teaching, and learning.

The program of studies in each school system is developed as a whole and aligned with the State and local standards and assessments. Accordingly, the authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education. We are the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments.

Legislation such as SB243, which seeks to interject piecemeal segments into the curriculum or to extract portions of the testing, only serve to weaken the effectiveness of the entire educational program.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB243.