



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 198
Title: Security - School Resource Officers
Committee: Ways and Means
Date: February 11, 2016
Position: OPPOSE
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 198.

House Bill 198 has two sections. The first section of the bill details trespassing on school property and who has the authority to deny access. This bill is essentially the same as the law currently in place. The second section of the bill discusses school resource officers for every public school in the state. If the public school in the state does not have at least one school resource officer assigned to it, the county superintendent would be required to hire retired law enforcement officers to serve as school resource officers. It also sets a minimum salary for these retired officers. It provides for reimbursement from the state for all expenditures necessary to meet the requirements of the bill.

The safety of our students is a top priority. As such, we believe armed school resource officers should be active, full-time police officers. Furthermore, although the bill states that retired officers hired as school resource officers would be a contractual employee of the state, they would be hired by the local school district, creating a possible liability. Finally, the issue of safety can be complex; as such, school districts should decide their own security needs.

For these reasons, we oppose this bill and ask for an unfavorable report.