



# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: Senate Bill 770  
Title: Public High Schools - Agriculture Science  
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Date: February 24, 2016  
Position: **OPPOSE**  
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 770.

This bill would require each county board of education, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, to implement a specified agriculture science curriculum in at least one public high school in each county or at least one career and technology education center in each county

Currently, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has three high schools with established Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Certified Professional Horticulturist Programs of Study which provide students the opportunity to learn principles of agriculture as well as earn a student-level Certified Professional Horticulturist certification. Additionally, though not specifically an Agricultural Science curriculum, MCPS has an established Environmental Science curriculum that is available in each high school as well as to several middle schools which discuss agricultural principles.

Fiscally, Senate Bill 0770 places a significant financial burden on local districts related to instructional materials, equipment, staffing, curriculum and assessment development, professional development, and space. The negative fiscal impact falls during a period of seriously limited funds in the county, state, and nation.

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