



## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 115  
Title: Education - Robotics Grant Program - Establishment  
Committee: Ways and Means  
Date: February 4, 2016  
Position: **SUPPORT**  
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 115.

This bill would allow for the establishment of a Robotics Grant Program to support and expand the existing robotics programs in eligible Maryland public schools and requires the Maryland State Department of Education to adopt regulations for the distribution of an annual \$500,000 appropriation of funds to eligible schools. Currently, in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Robotics programs have autonomy with regards to the structure of their programs and are supported through school-based stipends allocated by the principal.

While MCPS has several schools with established extra-curricular Robotics clubs in which sponsors receive school allocated stipends, funding is limited, and varies by school. Acquisition of annually appropriated funds would be advantageous to MCPS Robotics programs. Additional funding for MCPS Robotics programs would allow programs to purchase state of the art instructional materials, pay for competition registration fees, and assist with competition travel accommodations.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Education, thank you for your consideration and we urge a favorable report.