



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 251
Title: Home Instruction Programs - Participation in Clubs and Activities
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 strongly opposes House Bill 251.

This legislation allows home-schooled students registered with the county superintendent to participate in certain extracurricular activities in public schools under certain circumstances. Currently, students in home instruction programs in Maryland are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has more than NUMBER registered home schooled students—approximately NUMBER of the students are under the supervision of MCPS for program review. The remaining students are under the supervision of programs registered with the Maryland State Department of Education. It is not clear from this legislation if the intent is for all home-schooled students or only those under MCPS supervision to participate in extracurricular activities.

Among the areas of concern are the lack of detail, including what criteria would be used to determine eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities beyond the eligibility to attend the public school; whether or not the home-schooled student would be restricted to participation at their neighborhood school; under what circumstances a school could deny or rescind participation; the appeal right/process for denial of participation; the funding sources for fees and materials required for participation; and insurance and liability coverage.

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