



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: Senate Bill 375
Title: Relief From Budget Mandates
Committee: Budget and Taxation
Date: February 24, 2015
Position: **OPPOSE**
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 375.

With four exceptions, this legislation would provide that the Governor, beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, is not required to include an appropriation in the state budget for any program that exceeds the amount enacted by the Maryland General Assembly for the FY 2018 budget.

The exceptions including state aid for primary and secondary education, the state contribution to the State Retirement and Pension System, and appropriations for the state's debt are extremely important. For example, about 27 percent of our operating budget comes in the form of aid from the state. In addition, the substantial majority of our employees, including teachers, bus attendants, and principals, contribute to and receive pension benefits from the State Retirement and Pension System. However, there are critical areas of local funding that would be included in this legislation that would adversely impact MCPS.

However, because MCPS' local contribution is the largest part of the revenue the school district receives for its operating budget, and the aid that the county receives from the state is not exempted from this legislation, then the amount of funding that MCPS receives from the county could indirectly be impacted by this legislation. In addition, other state aid could be impacted that would affect MCPS. It is unknown the extent of the impact at this time, but it could be significant.

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