



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	Senate Bill (SB) 551	DATE:	February 22, 2023
SUBJECT:	Education - Service Year Option Program - Establishment (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)	COMMITTEE:	Education, Energy, and the Environment
POSITION:	Support		
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The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) supports Senate Bill (SB) 551 – *Education - Service Year Option Program - Establishment (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)* and the creation of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation.

Senate Bill 551 aligns with the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future’s aspirations of college and career attainment and recognizes that many different students require an opportunity to engage in service while contemplating the high-stakes decisions associated with selecting post-kindergarten through grade twelve college and career pathways and, ultimately, career attainment.

The bill, as drafted, amends the Education article but places no new burdens or work project on the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as the law establishes the Department of Service and Civic Innovation, which will ultimately administer the program. MSDE appreciates the value of service learning and the opportunity for a service year for Maryland high-school completers. MSDE stands ready for any close collaboration and coordination with the Department of Service and Civic Innovation and local education agencies, which may be necessary in order to successfully implement the infrastructure necessary to message, engage, and socialize the Service Year Option Program Statewide.

MSDE respectfully requests that you consider this letter of support as you deliberate Senate Bill 551 – *Education - Service Year Option Program - Establishment (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)*. Please contact Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy by phone at 410-767-0439, or by email at justin.dayhoff@maryland.gov for additional information.