

SB 149_ Education - Curriculum - Unit of Instructi

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Position: UNF



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director
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BILL: SB 149

TITLE: Education - Curriculum - Unit of Instruction on September 11, 2001
Terrorist Attacks

DATE: February 8, 2023

POSITION: Oppose

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four local school superintendents, **opposes** Senate Bill 149.

Senate Bill 149 requires public schools (as well as nonpublic schools that participate in State-funded education programs) to include a unit of instruction on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that is consistent with guidelines developed by the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE), beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, the bill encourages nonpublic schools that do not participate in State-funded education programs to include in the curriculum a unit of instruction on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

PSSAM has a longstanding track record of opposing efforts by the General Assembly to codify curriculum standards, assessments, or graduation requirements. Local superintendents strongly believe that the role of curriculum development and implementation belongs solely to local boards of education in conjunction with MSDE. Rest assured, PSSAM's opposition to this bill does not rest on an evaluation of the merits of teaching any specified subject matter, but rather opposition to statutorily mandating revisions to content standards and curriculum.

The Maryland General Assembly, in creating the Maryland State Board of Education and local boards of education, has delegated to them the responsibility of delivering a high-quality statewide system of public education through State standards and accountability measures, as well as locally governed and administered curriculum. The State Board establishes State content frameworks, state assessment standards, and minimum state graduation requirements, while each

local board and school system implement locally-developed curriculum to ensure that the state content frameworks are followed, student performance standards are met, and students are prepared to meet graduation requirements.

In the context of the content standards and unit of instruction proposed by Senate Bill 149, PSSAM highlights the current Maryland State Standards for Social Studies in Grade 10, which includes the standard: “Evaluate United States policies and actions in response to international terrorism, such as the attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut (1983), Embassy bombings (2000), the attacks on the U.S.S. Cole (2000), and September 11, 2001.” Furthermore, many local school systems choose to provide supplemental resources curated for elementary and secondary school students to assist our schools in paying tribute on this day, and more explicit lessons are often implemented into local curriculum standards for Grade 9 U.S. History and Grade 11 World History.

Again, PSSAM emphasizes that our opposition to this bill does not rest on the merits of instruction pertaining to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, but rather the implications of curricular mandates on local school systems. Senate Bill 149, as well as similar bills which seek to interject or extract piecemeal segments of the curriculum, only serve to weaken the effectiveness of the educational curriculum.

For these reasons, PSSAM respectfully **opposes** Senate Bill 149 and requests an unfavorable committee report.

SB 149.September 11 Unit of Instruction.pdf

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: UNF

BILL: Senate Bill 149
TITLE: Education - Curriculum - Unit of Instruction on September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks
DATE: February 8, 2023
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 149, which would mandate that Maryland schools include in the curriculum a unit of instruction on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

MABE generally opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, including the content standards on which curriculum is based, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board. Therefore, MABE's opposition to this bill does not rest on an evaluation of the merits of teaching any specified subject matter, but rather opposition to statutorily mandating revisions to content standards and curriculum.

In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for reviewing and adopting content standards and, at the local level, reviewing and adopting curriculum. The State Board establishes State content frameworks, state assessment standards, and minimum state graduation requirements. Each local board and school system implement locally-developed curriculum to ensure that the state content frameworks are followed, student performance standards are met, and students are prepared to meet graduation requirements.

In the context of the content standards and unit of instruction proposed by Senate Bill 149, MABE notes, for example, that the Maryland State Standards for Social Studies in Grade 10 includes the standard to: "Evaluate United States policies and actions in response to international terrorism, such as the attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut (1983), Embassy bombings (2000), the attacks on the U.S.S. Cole (2000), and September 11, 2001."

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 149.

SB149.Curr.9.11.23.pdf

Uploaded by: Virginia Crespo

Position: UNF



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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Senate Bill 0149

In Opposition Of

**Education – Curriculum – Unit of Instruction on September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

Hearing: February 8, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Senator Brian Feldman, Chair, and Honorable Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair, and Distinguished Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) opposes SB 0149 Education – Curriculum – Unit of Instruction on September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks.

It is the position of MRSPA that curriculum decisions must be the responsibility of State and Local Boards of Education. MRSPA's Education Priority is clear: "MRSPA supports legislation designed to enhance public education and promote lifelong learning for all students. Support for public education and lifelong learning is essential to forming an educated and productive citizenry. Curriculum decisions made in support of public education and lifelong learning must be the responsibility of State and Local Boards of Education."

We are not opposed to the recommended curriculum per se. It is not the role or responsibility of the State Legislature to mandate curriculum. We urge you to allow State and Local Boards of Education to do their due diligence in regard to curriculum.

On behalf of the over 12,000 members of The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge opposition to and an unfavorable report on SB 0149.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla J. Duls".

Carla J. Duls
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia G. Crespo".

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide

MD Catholic Conference_SB 149_INFO.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: INFO



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 8, 2023

Senate Bill 149

Education - Curriculum - Unit of Instruction on September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks

Senate Education, Energy and the Environmental Committee

Position: INFORMATION ONLY

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this STATEMENT OF INFORMATION to Senate Bill 149. We offer this testimony on behalf of the families of approximately 50,000 students served by more than 150 PreK-12 Catholic schools in Maryland. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 149 would require each public school and nonpublic school that participates in state-funded education program to include in its curriculum a unit of instruction on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The Conference appreciates the end goal of this legislation. Remembering those heroes who lost their lives in sacrifice to others as first responders in the September 11, 2001, attacks is vital in a historical context. Moreover, a way to continuously honor their sacrifices is to educate future generations about the circumstances of that fateful day and how those who gave their lives in service to others willingly did so.

However, as Maryland's nonpublic schools often already teach units about the events of September 11, 2001, as well as the sacrifices made by countless Americans on that day, we respectfully request that the state not dictate their particular curriculum as independent schools.

Nonpublic schools are approved and/or licensed by the State Department of Education and meet all institutional requirements placed on them by law. However, Maryland law regards nonpublic school curriculum as independent of that of our public schools for numerous reasons and this bill mandates particular curriculum on certain nonpublic schools.

To the extent that curriculum is more than encouraged, but is rather mandated, on nonpublic schools in the state, we respectfully disagree.