



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 0119
In Opposition Of
County Boards of Education – Curriculum Guides and
Courses of Study Requirements
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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 strongly opposes HB 0119.

The Mission Statement of the Maryland State Department of Education states that it is a “dedicated team of educators, specialists, and administrators joined together by a single vision: to be a system of world-class schools where students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, career, and life”. The department works collaboratively with local boards of education to achieve this mission.

This bill assumes that this cooperation does not currently exist. It assumes that the State Superintendent does not currently work with local superintendents and local boards of education to achieve the goals as stated in the mission statement. It is and has been the position of MRSPA that this is the responsibility of the Maryland Department of Education and not the responsibility of State government to make decisions concerning how the State Superintendent will carry out these responsibilities.

This bill also assumes that local boards of education do not have certain responsibilities in determining how curriculum may need to be adjusted to better fit the needs of their students. This collaboration between state and local school boards is essential to meet the needs of all students.

Finally, local boards of education and the Maryland State Department of Education share the responsibility of funding for education. This bill evolved into a measure that would give the state superintendent unprecedented power to take funds away from school systems if they do not comply with Maryland’s curriculum guidance. This funding should never be dependent on the controversies related to curriculum decisions. These decisions are made collaboratively in curriculum writing committees which include various groups of decisions makers.

On behalf of the over 12,000 members of MRSPA, we strongly urge an unfavorable report on HB 0119.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls
President

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide