
TO: House Ways and Means Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 730 - Education - Course on Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction

DATE: February 14, 2024

POSITION: Oppose

Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully oppose **HB 730**, which would require MSDE to develop content standards for a course on the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction for students in grades 6 through 8 to be implemented by public schools by the 2025-2026 school year, requiring revision to the approved [Maryland Social Studies Standards](#).

Our opposition to this legislation rests on the grounds that the legislative requirement runs counter to the process that is entrusted to the State Board, MSDE, and LEAs. The State Board and MSDE have an established process for reviewing, revising, and adopting standards, frameworks, and curricular resources. Both entities are strident in ensuring that the development of standards, frameworks, and curricular resources is conducted through this process, which includes collaboration between the State Board, MSDE, LEAs, and stakeholders.

Separate processes and timelines for the review and approval of standards, frameworks, and curricular resources could be counterproductive to both MSDE and to local education agencies. Additionally, HB 730 would allow for a short timeline for LEAs to complete the required curricular resource development, training, and procurement of new materials.

They will be required to:

- Rewrite curriculum guides, including writing, review, and piloting;
- Procure new instructional materials aligned to the revised standards and curriculum; and
- Train teachers in appropriate teaching pedagogy, implementation of the new curriculum, and implementation of the new instructional materials.

Beyond this, the changes required by this bill to the Maryland Social Studies Standards would alter the national best practices aligned inquiry statement structure by shifting to a content-specific structure. This change would require substantial revision beyond the inclusion of the content required by **HB 730** to ensure that the standards reflect an accurate, equitable representation of content and topics.

MSDE, in partnership with teachers, supervisors, parents, institutes of higher education, and other stakeholders will continue to undertake significant reviews of state standards and frameworks. In this process, MSDE will be certain to include our critical partners in the General Assembly.

The State Board and MSDE request that the committee consider this information on **HB 730**. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Education Policy, and Government Relations, at Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov or at 410-767-0504 or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or at 443-915-6094, if you would like any additional information.