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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1194  
Public Schools—Fees for Summer School Courses—Prohibition**

**House Ways and Means Committee  
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1:00 PM**

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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1194. The legislation would prohibit LEAs from charging summer school fees of students who meet certain conditions.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland’s public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Under this legislation, a student would be eligible for this exemption if they: 1) attend school in the district; 2) require a summer school course in order to graduate; and 3) previously took said course and did not successfully complete it.

For many students who fall into this category, paying to repeat a needed summer school course could be cost prohibitive, particularly if the student hails from a low-income family. One’s family’s financial limitations should not serve as a barrier to their high school graduation. Every effort should be made on the part of the school and the district to ensure that all students successfully complete their high school careers.

Currently, the cost for taking a summer school course varies from district to district, with some charging hundreds of dollars per course. Some offer discounted tuition for students who are FARMS eligible, which can serve a tremendous help. Even still, the discounted cost could remain a financial hardship for too many families.

Ensuring that Maryland’s students receive a free public education is the responsibility of the state legislature and the taxpayers. That responsibility should not cease to apply when it comes to repeating a required course through summer school. As such, **we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1194.**