BILL: House Bill 1153

DATE: March 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Mathematics and Computer Science

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: Information Only

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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for your consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 1153 - Public Schools – Mathematics Credit – Computer Science or Computer Programing Course. HB1153 allows public high school students to satisfy one mathematics credit by completing a computer science or computer programing course selected by a local board of education.

The MSDE currently allows computer science courses to fulfill graduation requirements for mathematics, technology education, and career and technical education. COMAR Sec. 13A.04.12.01, *Programs in Mathematics*, allows local school systems to accept several mathematics-related courses, including AP Computer Science and a non-AP Computer Science course, to meet graduation credit and enrollment requirements. It should be noted that the University System of Maryland accepts AP Computer Science as one of four required mathematics courses for admission, but not the final course.

In 2015, the MSDE expanded course options available for students to fulfill the technology education graduation requirement to include computer science courses. Currently, 23 of 24 school systems provide this option to students. Students may also complete a computer science program of study as part of a career and technical education graduation pathway. There are over 14,000 high school students across the state currently enrolled in a computer science program of study. If a student takes a computer science course to fulfill a mathematics credit, then the same course cannot be used to fulfill the technology education or CTE graduation credit.

The MSDE is committed to supporting the implementation of computer science education. Computer science standards have been developed, curriculum and supporting resources have been implemented, professional learning opportunities for teachers have been provided, and graduation credit options have already been established. We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate HB 1153**.** For further information, please contact Tiffany Clark, at 410-260-6028, or tiffany.clark1@maryland.gov.