

KATIE FRY HESTER
Legislative District 9
Carroll and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3671 • 301-858-3671
800-492-7122 Ext. 3671
KatieFry.Hester@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 3rd, 2020

**Sponsor Testimony in Support of SB892 - Public Schools - Mathematics
Credit - Computer Science or Computer Programming Course**

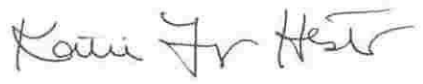
Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB892. This bill will enable County Boards of Education to count a computer science or computer programming course towards a mathematics credit required for graduation from a Maryland public high school. Currently, County Boards may allow a student to utilize a computer science course as a general math credit, but do not count that mathematics credit towards the four credit mathematics graduation requirement. This bill would expand that authority and the applicability of computer science courses, as long as that course has been certified by the Maryland State Department of Education to meet state graduation standards for mathematics.

I am highly supportive of the expansion of career and technical education programs included in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Increasing the ability for students to acquire valuable technical skills in the modern economy allows for better student outcomes later in their educational careers, and prepares them more completely to participate in the workforce. This bill takes a measured step towards achieving those policy goals, allowing County Boards to build more flexibility into student schedules to facilitate the development of computer science skills, especially at a time when the economy is rapidly changing, and computer science skills are rapidly becoming key components of industries that we would not traditionally categorize as "tech" or "tech related."

This bill was a recommendation of the Maryland High School Graduation Task Force, and was included in their final report issued in October of 2018. **I respectfully request a favorable report for SB892.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Howard and Carroll Counties