Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 914	**DATE:**	February 17, 2021
SUBJECT:	Education – Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students - Report	**COMMITTEE:**	Ways and Means
POSITION:	Information Only		
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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 914, - Education – Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students - Report, which requires the MSDE to complete a study of local Home and Hospital Teaching programs to assess whether students receiving instructional services through the Home and Hospital Teaching Program are provided adequate support and to analyze whether school systems provide sufficient staffing to coordinate instructional services.

This prospective legislation would also require MSDE to study whether transition plans should be implemented and if school counselors should lead and develop the work on transition plans and whether transition plans should be evaluated by licensed medical professionals. HB 914 also requires MSDE to submit a report on the findings and recommendations of the study to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 31, 2021.

The MSDE currently does not have the capacity to implement a study of this size and scope. To conduct the study, staff would be required to define and measure key terms (e.g. “adequate support”, “adequate instructional time”, “sufficient staffing”, and “successful transition”), develop a program evaluation instrument, create data collection/analysis tools, develop a methodology to implement the study, analyze the results, and make recommendations. A study of this type requires a professional program evaluator dedicated to the implementation, evaluation, and assessment of the data. It will also require school systems to collect new data points, once definitions are provided.

This timeline is not sufficient for a study of this magnitude to be successfully conducted and places a significant burden on the local school systems to gather data that is currently undefined and is not required to be collected. To collect the data necessary, local school systems and the program evaluator would need another school year for the data to collected, analyzed, and assessed.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 914**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.