



Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

BILL:	House Bill 629
TITLE:	County Boards of Education – Student Member – Voting
DATE:	February 5, 2021
POSITION:	Oppose
COMMITTEE:	Ways and Means
CONTACT:	Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

This bill prohibits student members of a county board of education from casting a deciding vote on issues before a board.

The Public Schools Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM), representing all twenty-four local school superintendents, **opposes HB 629**.

State law provides that “educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of a county board of education” and that local boards “determine, with the advice of the county superintendent, the educational policies of the county school system.” While Maryland law governs the roles and responsibilities for local boards of education, boards are generally in control of educational matters and are most responsive to the individual needs of their communities, as well as the available resources to fund local education priorities. If passed, this bill would undermine the governance authority of local boards of education. PSSAM continues to be supportive of state decisions that allow local school boards their self-governance.

For these reasons, PSSAM **opposes HB 629** and requests an **unfavorable** committee report.

One Voice, One Vision for Maryland’s Students
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