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Bill: HB 1299
Title: Education - Public High Schools - Financial Literacy Curriculum and Graduation Requirement
Date: February 17, 2021
Position: Oppose
Committee: Ways and Means
Contact: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

House Bill 1299 requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a half-semester-long course in financial literacy; requiring each county board of education to implement the financial literacy curriculum content developed by the State Board in certain high schools; and requiring students to complete a certain course in order to graduate high school.

The Public Schools Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), representing all twenty-four local school superintendents, **opposes** HB 1299.

Today, more than ever, graduates must be financially literate to be prepared for college, careers, and responsible living. Maryland public schools strongly support financial literacy and have implemented curriculum to ensure that all students have a strong foundation in financial education to make informed decisions. In fact, State regulations already require financial literacy education as a requirement in all Maryland public schools, including elementary, middle and high school.

Maryland is preparing students to be financially literate by implementing Personal Financial Literacy Education Standards in grades 3-12 in every public school, meeting regularly with the Financial Literacy Education Council to support local school system implementation activities and providing a program of financial literacy education for all students in grades 3-12. Further, school systems have partnered with financial institutions and other organizations to provide ongoing professional development for teachers and have created public and private partnerships to fund financial literacy initiatives in local schools.

PSSAM appreciates the intent of this legislation and agrees that financial literacy is important, but believes we oppose this as a graduation requirement. We continue to oppose legislation that mandates curriculum, courses of study, or graduation requirements.

Therefore, PSSAM respectfully **opposes** House Bill 1299 and urges an unfavorable committee report.