MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

**Mohammed Choudhury**
State Superintendent of Schools

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| **BILL:** | Senate Bill 462 | **DATE:** | February 16, 2022 |
| **SUBJECT:** | Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation | **COMMITTEE:** | Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs |
| **POSITION:** | Letter of Information | | |
| **CONTACT:** | Ary Amerikaner<br>410-767-0090<br>ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov | | |

**EXPLANATION:**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits this information regarding **Senate Bill 462 – Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation**, which would require the State Board of Education to develop expanded content and curricular standards for American History to be implemented in all public schools by the 2023-2024 school year.

MSDE is supportive of ensuring that the contributions and histories of the traditionally marginalized groups identified in this legislation are included in the ongoing redevelopment and expansion of Social Studies curriculum in the State of Maryland. The Department agrees that the concepts explored in SB 462 must be reflected in the fundamental premise of any Social Studies curriculum.

With requirements in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future that MSDE and the State Board develop new curricular standards and resources for every grade level designed to be used by local school systems to meet college and career ready standards for students by the end of 10th grade, MSDE registers concerns that unaligned processes and timelines for the completion of such similar and simultaneous work could be counterproductive both to MSDE and to local school systems.

As local school systems continue to update their curriculum in accordance with the revised standards and frameworks and look to make future changes to curricular standards as a result of the Blueprint, additional legislatively prescribed curricular mandates at this time could create implementation-based inefficiencies due to the nearly complete revision of curriculum already charged within the Blueprint.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **Senate Bill 462.** Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.