



The mission of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) shall be to promote quality education by establishing standards designed to guarantee that educational professionals meet threshold levels of knowledge and skills required to prepare all students for success.

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD**
Maryland State Department of Education

BILL: HB1163 **DATE:** March 7, 2022
SUBJECT: Primary and Secondary Education – **COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means
Virtual Education – Requirements
POSITION: Opposition
CONTACT: Maleeta Kitchen
maleeta.kitchen@gmail.com

EXPLANATION:

The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) opposes House Bill (HB) 1163 Primary and Secondary Education - Virtually Education - Requirements, which requires the board to design a course of training in the pedagogy of virtual education to be offered by teacher preparation programs and to newly hired teachers during induction.

While the PSTEB recognizes that the goal of the legislation is to ensure Maryland teacher candidates and newly hired educators are well equipped to deliver virtual instruction in the asynchronous and synchronous environments, the Board identifies several areas of concern relating to the requirements of this legislation on the Board itself, local school systems, teacher preparation programs, and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The charge for PSTEB to design coursework for Maryland Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) and local school systems is outside the Board’s typical scope of responsibilities. The Board is composed of 25 members, teachers, administrators, and educator preparation programs representatives appointed by the Governor, and is responsible for developing rules and regulations related to educator preparation and certification, per the requirements of Md. Code, Educ. §6-702-708. Consequently, the Board’s membership does not include experts in the field of virtual education or course design. Additionally, the PSTEB does not have a budget; therefore, does not have the funding required to design a course.

Further, the enactment of HB 1163 will duplicate efforts that are currently in place or underway. EPPs are currently required to incorporate technology standards in all teacher educator programs. Many of them have adopted or are in the process of adopting the International Society for Technology in Education Standards (ISTE).

The PSTEB is committed to promoting quality education by establishing standards designed to guarantee that educational professionals meet threshold levels of knowledge and skills required to prepare all students for success in the ever-changing global society.

The Board respectfully requests that you consider this information as you deliberate HB 1163. Please contact Maleeta Kitchen, at maleeta.kitchen@gmail.com for any additional information.