Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	Senate Bill 304	**DATE:**	February 3, 2022
SUBJECT:	Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement	**COMMITTEE:**	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
POSITION:	Letter of Information		
CONTACT:	Ary Amerikaner 410-767-0090 ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov		

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits this information regarding **Senate Bill 304 – Public Schools – Asian American History Curriculum Requirement**, which would require the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a unit of instruction on Asian American History for Public schools in the state to be implemented 2023-2024 school year.

MSDE is supportive of ensuring that the contributions and histories of Asian Americans are included in the ongoing redevelopment and expansion of the Social Studies curriculum in the State of Maryland. The Department agrees that the concepts explored in SB 304 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 304**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.