

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Senate Bill 598

State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

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The Maryland State Education Association supports, with an amendment, Senate Bill 598, which would alter the membership of the State Board of Education to include a school principal as a member and provide for the initial term of the principal member.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Including a teacher and principal on the State Board of Education provides valuable insight into the daily operations and needs of Maryland's schools. However, we continue to lack the perspective of a non-supervisory, non-certificated education support professional, such as a paraeducator, food service staff member, or one of the many other roles that keep our schools functioning. Such a member would bring a unique and essential perspective to the State Board's role in the oversight and regulation of education policy.

We therefore urge an amendment to add an elected non-supervisory education support professional to the State Board with the same voting rights and restrictions as the teacher member and principal member. The education support professional member should be elected in a manner and to a term comparable to the teacher member, with voting made available to all non-supervisory, noncertificated school employees in the state.

With the inclusion of the proposed amendment, we urge the Committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 598.