

January 31, 2024

HB 213

Maryland STEM Program

House Ways and Means Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland STEM Program, HB 213, offers one way to bolster teacher satisfaction in the state and to help schools fill positions in the increasingly important subject areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

The Maryland STEM Program mirrors one that already exists in New Jersey, wherein public school teachers and in this case, retired teachers, may teach additional courses at local nonpublic schools, outside their regular school responsibilities. These teachers remain fully in their public school system, with a voluntary opportunity for extra compensation doing what they do best. Nonpublic school students can learn from talented STEM instructors and their schools can be offered access to these teachers, at a time when they have extreme difficulty retaining STEM teachers.

We know that programs like this can make a difference in improving educational outcomes in our schools and providing public school teachers with an avenue to enrich the lives of more students by doing what they do best. We are eager to see the establishment of this program in Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

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