



**PSSAM**  
Public School Superintendents' Association  
OF MARYLAND

**Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director**  
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**BILL:** HB 1237

**TITLE:** State Department of Education - Task Force to Study the Maryland Online IEP System

**DATE:** February 28, 2024

**POSITION:** Favorable with Amendments

**COMMITTEE:** House Ways and Means Committee

**CONTACT:** Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

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The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports HB 1237 with amendments.**

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study the Maryland Online individualized educational program (IEP) System and provides for membership of the task force. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must staff the task force. The task force must (1) study the effectiveness, functionality, and usability of the Maryland Online IEP System; (2) determine the availability of other platforms and how other platforms compare to the current system in terms of effectiveness, functionality, usability, and cost; (3) evaluate the costs of maintaining or upgrading the current system or purchasing or leasing another platform; and (4) make recommendations to maintain and upgrade the system or replace the system with another platform as determined by the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by June 1, 2025.

PSSAM supports any initiatives to alleviate the paperwork for special educators. The increasing burdens of this administrative work is one of the top reasons cited by special teachers for moving to general education classrooms or leaving the profession altogether.

According to MSDE, the State Superintendent is committed to addressing the concerns in this bill via an existing IEP User/Workgroup that meets quarterly to obtain stakeholder feedback on the Maryland Online IEP System and the IEP document form and format. Many of the current participants are the same stakeholders that are identified in this bill, and more.

PSSAM is aware of this group and this Superintendent's commitment to moving the work forward. However, we ask that the Committee amend the bill to remove the creation of a new Task Force but retain the report required by the Department.

For these reasons, PSSAM requests a **favorable with amendments** report for HB 1237.