

FAVORABLE
House Bill 1237
State Department of Education – Task Force to Study the Maryland Online
IEP System

House Ways and Means Committee
February 28, 2024

Christian Gobel
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1237. House Bill 1237 establishes a task force to study the Maryland Online IEP system. The task force is required to: i) study the effectiveness, functionality, and usability of the Maryland Online IEP System; ii) determine the availability of other platforms and compare other platforms to the current system; iii) evaluate the costs of maintaining or upgrading the current system or acquiring a different platform; and iv) making 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 on or before June 1, 2025.

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).

MSEA appreciates the sponsor for introducing House Bill 1237. Improving working conditions for special education teachers is critical to attract more individuals to enter the profession and retain existing special education teachers. Special education obligates educators to prepare a significant amount of paperwork to demonstrate compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A well-performing online platform system is crucial to ensuring educators can efficiently satisfy their compliance and data keeping requirements, yet many educators in Maryland express



dissatisfaction with the current Maryland Online IEP system. A task force dedicated to improving the current online system or evaluating the possibility of an alternative system has meaningful potential to improve working conditions for special education teachers.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 1237.