

FAVORABLE
House Bill 1059
Education - Asian American History – Accurate Instruction

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1059 as amended, which directs the State Department of Education to identify and offer professional development and materials to support educators' instruction on state standards related to Asian American history.

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 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Students deserve history education that is inclusive, accurate, and complete, and MSEA recognizes the importance of ensuring that educators are empowered to teach U.S. history thoroughly and effectively. It is essential that students receive a comprehensive multicultural education that cultivates respect and appreciation for all, which includes learning about the experiences and contributions of Asian Americans. This bill aims to ensure that educators have access to high-quality resources to aid their instruction on state standards relating to Asian American history.

Importantly, this bill does not mandate the creation or implementation of specific curriculum standards, as MSEA has longstanding concerns about legislating curriculum. We appreciate that this bill makes supplemental resources available to educators while ensuring that curriculum frameworks remain the purview of the State Board and local boards of education.

We strongly encourage the Maryland State Department of Education to similarly offer and award licensure renewal credit for resources that cover the experiences and contributions of the many communities whose stories are often underrecognized in U.S. history. Students benefit when educators have access to supplemental resources and training to implement instructional frameworks with fidelity.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1059.