

FAVORABLE

House Bill 1059

Education - Asian American History - Professional Development and Library Materials

House Ways and Means Committee

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Lauren Lamb

Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1059 as amended, which would require the Maryland State Department of Education to evaluate certain Asian American history training programs as potential offerings eligible for continuing professional development points, establish the Asian American History Grant Program to provide expanded access to professional development in Asian American history to educators, and provide funding to school libraries to purchase materials 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 honest, 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 education that respects, reflects, and supports children of every race, background, and origin, 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. We encourage the Maryland State Department of Education to similarly offer and award credit for resources that cover the experiences and contributions of the many communities whose stories are often underrecognized in U.S. history.

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