

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1278

Department of Legislative Services—Study—Capacity and
Accountability of State Department of Education

House Ways and Means Committee

March 3, 2021

1:30 am

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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1278, which would require the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) to contract with a consultant for the purposes of conducting a capacity and accountability study of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as it relates to their role in the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. 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).

With the enactment of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, our state is about to embark upon an historic, multifaceted implementation process—one that will involve educators across the state; various local and state elected officials and agencies; and a significant amount of state and federal tax dollars. This is a consequential endeavor. As such, MSEA believes it should involve the implementation of processes and practices aimed at ensuring the most qualified individuals are put into decision-making positions. Further, said implementation must be informed and guided by a clear, pragmatic understanding of the capability and capacity of the major institutions and agencies involved.

We whole-heartedly support this legislation because we believe its goals and objectives meet the urgency and the significance of this moment. We were one of largest, strongest, and most vocal advocates for the Blueprint because we believe that it is the map our state needs to guide us toward the



future all of our students deserve and the future we want for our state. To that end, we stand in solidarity with the bill sponsor and share his unequivocal desire to ensure the Blueprint's success. We remain ready to support efforts we believe will aid in that success.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 1278.