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Bill: HB 1372 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions
Date: March 15, 2021
Position: Support
Committee: House Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees
Contact: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

This emergency legislation primarily makes technical corrections to the newly enacted Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act of 2020. Technical changes focus on moving implementation dates out for one year for most provisions. The bill also details the structure, operation, and expectations of summer school and tutoring programs, and increases funding for digital learning. The bill also makes adjustments to Maintenance of Effort funding required by local governments, and adjusts future formulas by removing 2020 enrollment counts in the calculation of future state and local aid. Lastly, the bill includes a number of reporting requirements related to federal funding received by local school systems.

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), **supports HB 1372.**

PSSAM appreciates the Legislature's quick action on this legislation. This bill will provide stability and predictability to school systems during this unprecedented time of uncertainty due to the pandemic, but also the questionable fate of the Blueprint veto efforts at the beginning of the legislative session. We are especially grateful for the additional funding embedded in the future foundation formula to maintain and grow our digital infrastructure. The bill also creates a framework and expectations for summer school and tutoring, which complement and largely mirror our existing efforts to address disrupted learning. The legislation gratefully recognizes and makes adjustments for the declining enrollment we experienced this school year, ensuring that this one-year blip will not negatively affect future budgets during our recovery.

This legislation puts the necessary finishing touches on the Legislature's long-term commitment to creating a world-class education system in Maryland and fully implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act. We look forward to our continued partnership with the General Assembly as we traverse these unprecedented times.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM requests a **favorable** committee report on **HB 1372.**