



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

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BILL: SB 598
TITLE: State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal
DATE: February 23, 2024
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports** Senate Bill 598.

Senate Bill 598 would add an active, certified principal to the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE). This bill would require a state-wide election to be held for all active and certified principals in the State, as well as require that the principal member who receives the highest number of votes be appointed to the vacancy by the Governor. Additionally, Senate Bill 598 provides parameters for the voting capacity and term length of the principal member.

PSSAM understands amendments may be forthcoming from the sponsor and the State Board and certainly yields to the wisdom and direction of those discussions and decisions by this Committee.

PSSAM appreciates the goal of this legislation to allow for the appointment of a principal member to the Maryland State Board of Education. Maryland's superintendents have found value in adequate representation of other populations through elections and appointments to the State Board, such as teacher and student members. PSSAM sees this legislation as a natural extension, as well as a vehicle for adequate representation of school leadership, which is essential for equitable outcomes in education.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 598 and urges a favorable committee report.