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BILL: House Bill 10
TITLE: State Lottery – Unclaimed Prizes – Public Prekindergarten Programs
DATE: January 17, 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 10 requires the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, at the end of each fiscal year, to remit money in the unclaimed prize fund to the Comptroller for distribution to each county board of education in the State on a pro rata basis determined by the total lottery sales made in each county; and requires that a county board of education use distributions from the fund for public prekindergarten programs; etc.

PSSAM **supports** House Bill 10. Local superintendents are always appreciative of any legislation that lessens the financial burden on local school systems to deliver a quality education to all students.

The funds provided by this legislation would be targeted to Prekindergarten Programs. The expansion of Prekindergarten for all of Maryland's 4-year old children has been a top legislative priority for local superintendents for several years. We also fully support quality early childhood education for our most vulnerable 3-year olds. As educators, we recognize and validate research that supports early childhood education, including the future impact it will have on our youngest students to stay on track, complete high school, and be college and career ready upon graduation. From a fiscal standpoint, the long-term return on investment is well worth the expenditure.

As detailed above, PSSAM fully **supports** House Bill 10 and requests a favorable committee report.