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BILL: House Bill 503  
TITLE: State Department of Education – Translation Grant Program – Established  
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POSITION: SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
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House Bill 503 establishes the Translation Grant Program in the State Department of Education to provide grants to public schools that are experiencing a significant number of requests to translate educational materials into a student's or parent's native language; requiring the Program to be a competitive grant program; requiring the Department to establish application procedures and supervise the use of certain funds; requiring the Governor to include at least \$250,000 annually for the program beginning in fiscal year 2020; etc.

PSSAM **supports** House Bill 503.

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.

House Bill 503 recognizes the fiscal translation burden on school systems relative to English Language Learners (ELL). The number of languages spoken by public school students has greatly increased and continues to rise every year. For example, approximately 160 languages are represented in Prince George's and Montgomery County public schools. The potential cost of translating educational materials is very significant. Translation costs are calculated on a per word basis and also include other fees (project management, editing, and proofreading).

PSSAM thanks the sponsor of this legislation. House Bill 503 would provide the Translation Grant Program, which is a competitive grant program for local school systems with large numbers of English Language Learners to receive funds to translate educational materials. The grant funds would assist local school systems to better meet the diverse needs of our ELL students.