House Bill 709 requires a certain contract of a county superintendent of schools or a certain chief executive officer, executed on or after June 1, 2019, to include a provision that if the contract is terminated, the maximum cash settlement may not exceed certain amounts; prohibiting a certain cash settlement from including any compensation other than cash, subject to a certain exception; prohibiting a county superintendent or chief executive officer who is removed under certain circumstances from being compensated in a certain manner; etc.

PSSAM strongly opposes House Bill 709.

Since 1916, Maryland law has governed the roles and responsibilities for local boards of education. Local boards of education are given control of educational matters within their county. PSSAM strongly supports the historic Maryland law that has governed the autonomy of local boards of education to set education policy and school budgets. This includes the appointment of the local superintendent. The local board of education must retain all integral and legal components of negotiating the local superintendent’s contract to include financial compensation if the local superintendent is removed.

PSSAM must continue to advocate for governance for local boards of education relative to education policy and school system budgets, including compensation to the local superintendent of school.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM opposes House Bill 709 and urges an unfavorable committee report.