



BILL: House Bill 814  
TITLE: Workers' Compensation – Students in Unpaid Work-Based Learning Experiences  
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POSITION: Support  
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters  
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House Bill 814 authorizes all county boards of education, rather than only certain county boards of education, to waive the requirement that a participating employer reimburse the county for the cost of the premium for workers' compensation coverage provided to students placed in unpaid work-based learning experiences or pay a certain fee.

**PSSAM supports** House Bill 814.

Work-based learning opportunities provide students with “real world” work experiences related to a program of study or career major. Students can see the connection between academic and technical studies learned in the classroom and the skills needed to be part of a work environment, such as thinking, interpersonal and communication skills. Local superintendents support work-based learning opportunities and appreciate the employers that provide opportunities for students to participate in these programs.

Maryland currently offers a tax credit to employers for approved, paid work-based learning programs for students that provide a structured employer-supervised learning experience. We support House Bill 814 that expands to all local boards of education the authority to waive the requirement that a participating employer reimburse the local board for the cost of workers' compensation insurance coverage provided to students placed in unpaid work-based learning experiences. Passage of this legislation will allow school systems flexibility to work with employers and offer an additional incentive to participate in unpaid work-based learning opportunities for students.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM supports House Bill 814 and urges a favorable committee report.