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BILL: Senate Bill 479
TITLE: High School Credit for College Courses Act of 2018
DATE: February 14, 2018
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
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Senate Bill 479 requires a county board of education to award certain elective credit to a high school student who successfully completes a certain college course or a course recognized for credit by an institution of postsecondary education in the State through a certain approved direct credit articulation agreement; requiring a certain institution of postsecondary education to make a certain certification; establishing certain procedures for the State Department of Education to make a certain determination; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 479.

Local superintendents must continue to advocate for local board of education governance of teaching and learning. Local superintendents have been given the responsibility to implement locally-developed curriculum to ensure that state standards are met and students are prepared to meet graduation requirements. Senate Bill 479 takes away the authority of local school systems by requiring a local superintendent to award credit to a high school student for successful completion of any college course for which the student receives college credit. This legislation also applies to college courses for which a student seeks credit to meet a high school graduation requirement.

PSSAM strongly believes that it is critical that locally-governed education policies and procedures remain under the authority of local boards of education. Each local school board must have the flexibility to develop individual curriculum policies and practices that reflect the specific and diverse needs of their system. PSSAM again reiterates that we will continue to oppose all attempts to legislate curriculum, courses of study, or graduation requirements. We firmly believe that this role belongs to local boards of education working together with the State Board of Education.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 479 and urges an unfavorable committee report.