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BILL: Senate Bill 515
TITLE: Career and Technology Education and Workforce Investment Act
DATE: March 20, 2018
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
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Senate Bill 515 authorizes, instead of requiring, an appropriation for the Commission for the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship; establishing the Career and Technology Education Grant Program to provide grants for the capital equipping of school facilities used to provide a certain career and technology program; requiring the Interagency Committee on School Construction to implement and administer the Program; terminating certain provisions of the Act after June 30, 2026; etc.

PSSAM supports Senate Bill 515.

Local superintendents are focused on providing strong college and career readiness programs for all graduating students. Career Technology Programs (CTE) have been expanding during the 21st Century and we know there are many students that will not be entering college after graduation. We have placed a high priority on our CTE programs to provide our students with many more options during high school.

Senate Bill 515 establishes the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Grant Program to provide matching grants to local school systems for capital equipping of school facilities used to provide CTE programs. The proposed legislation also authorizes the Governor to include up to \$2 million annually for the grant program. In addition, it mandates an annual appropriation of \$3 million for the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarships.

State legislation currently requires that the Maryland State Department of Education develop statewide goals every year from 2018 through 2024 that will help ensure that by January 1, 2025, 45% of high school students will have successfully completed a CTE program, earn industry-recognized occupational or skill credentials, or complete a registered youth or other apprenticeship before graduating from high school. In addition, Maryland's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan also requires a laser focus on expansion of CTE and apprenticeship programs.

Local superintendent support all efforts and funding to help us expand CTE in our high schools. For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 515 and urges a favorable committee report.