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BILL: House Bill 1205
TITLE: Primary and Secondary Education – Animal Welfare – Instruction, Living Space, and Penalty
DATE: March 7, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 1205 requires that public and certain nonpublic schools provide instruction on the humane treatment and protection of companion, domestic, and wild animals; requiring a school that keeps a certain animal on the premises to provide an appropriate living space for the animal that meets certain standards; prohibiting an individual from feeding a live animal to another animal under certain circumstances; and requiring that an individual who violates a certain provision of law is guilty of a certain crime.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1205.

Local superintendents understand the intent of House Bill 1205. We appreciate the value of providing humane treatment and protection for all animals. However, local superintendents continue to advocate for local board of education governance of teaching and learning. We strongly believe 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 noted above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1205 and requests an unfavorable committee report.