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BILL: House Bill 1206
TITLE: Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – Data Matching
DATE: March 7, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 1206 requires each county board of education to convert certain student information into census tract and block numbers in a certain manner; requiring the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center and the Comptroller to jointly develop a certain protocol for the transfer and matching of certain information to produce certain aggregated information; requiring the Center and Comptroller to jointly develop certain data privacy and security standards for the Comptroller to utilize for a certain protocol; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1206.

This legislation requires each local school system to convert a student's home address and geolocation information into census tract and block numbers in a manner and format that are consistent with the protocol developed by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center. The conversion is complicated and time consuming. In fact, local school systems could not provide the data unless a tool was created whereby student addresses were submitted by school systems and the tool then developed the appropriate census track and block number for every address.

The legislation also requires us to provide social security numbers for all students. The Maryland State Department of Education enacted a policy several years ago that stated that local school systems were not required to demand that data. While school systems may have social security numbers on most students, the list may not be complete if a student refused to submit that information.

Finally, we question the value of collecting this data. For example, many students leave school systems and go to school or work in another county or out of state. The sample of students that settled in one county after completing school and attending a Maryland college would be relatively small. Additionally, we have many transplants that moved to Maryland from other states and we would not have a record for their educational background K-12 or college. We believe that this legislation would be time consuming and produce statistics that are not always valid.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1206 and requests an unfavorable committee report.