



Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com
www.pssam.org

BILL: House Bill 1250
TITLE: Career Education Act of 2019
DATE: March 7, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 1250 requires the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to develop a mobile application to target employers in industries in which industry skills align with the skills developed through membership in a certain student organization; requiring county boards of education to treat the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education; requiring a county board to pay any fees related to career technology student organizations; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1250.

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. We appreciate the intent of House Bill 1250, but we believe it is ill-timed.

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) has been working for several years on developing policies and strategies that will ultimately redefine our current education policies and practices. As a part of their work, the Kirwan Commission has been extensively studying all components of career and technology education. Their preliminary report included comprehensive recommendations. Their final report is expected to be released very shortly. PSSAM believes a more prudent path is to focus on the Kirwan Commission recommendations to create world class career and technology programs in all local school systems.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1250 and requests an unfavorable committee report.