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BILL: House Bill 330
TITLE: Education – County Boards of Education – County Superintendent Contracts
DATE: March 27, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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House Bill 330 requires a certain contract of a county superintendent of schools or a certain chief executive officer, executed on or after June 1, 2020, to include a provision that if the contract is terminated, the maximum cash settlement may not exceed certain amounts; prohibiting a certain cash settlement from including any compensation other than cash, subject to a certain exception; prohibiting a county superintendent or chief executive officer who is removed under certain circumstances from being compensated in a certain manner; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 330.

Maryland law provides for the legal framework establishing the roles and responsibilities of local boards of education. One of the major responsibilities of a county board of education is the appointment of a county superintendent of schools.

The role of the local board of education is to conduct an extensive search when it becomes necessary to fill the position and select the best candidate for their local school system. The search for a local superintendent is both lengthy and expensive, generally taking approximately one year. Highly qualified local superintendents are in high demand and the competition is fierce. The final selection by the local board follows extensive input from educators, students, parents, and community as well as an in depth review of credentials of the candidate.

Once the right candidate has been selected, the next critical step is the negotiation of the final contract. PSSAM believes that the terms of contract must be determined by the local board of education.

However, as local superintendents, we understand the intent of this legislation. Therefore, PSSAM would like to recommend the appointment of a workgroup that would be charged with delving into the multiple complex legal issues surrounding the negotiation of a superintendent's contract. We would be pleased to be a part of a state workgroup representing all parties involved. We believe the final report would provide a broad-based perspective from the local, state, and national level on this subject.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 330 and urges an unfavorable committee report.