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BILL: House Bill 705
TITLE: Career and Technology Education – Training in Soft Business Skills
DATE: March 8, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 705 requires career and technology programs in public schools to provide training in certain soft business skills.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 705.

Local superintendents understand the intent of House Bill 705. We recognize the critical importance of our students acquiring soft business skills. Many of our students already participate in SkillsUSA, which is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to provide a skilled workforce. Students learn and practice personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.

However, as local superintendents, we must 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 stated above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 705 and urges an unfavorable committee report.