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BILL: House Bill 948
TITLE: Education – Advanced Placement Examination Fees – State Payment
DATE: February 28, 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 948 requires each county board of education to pay the exam fee for each Advanced Placement exam taken by public school students in the county beginning in the 2019-2020 school year; requiring the State Board of Education to reimburse each county board the amount paid in Advanced Placement exam fees during the previous fiscal year; requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2021, to include in the annual State budget an appropriation sufficient to cover payments made by county boards during the previous fiscal year; etc.

PSSAM thanks the sponsor and fully **supports** House Bill 948.

Advanced Placement courses give students the opportunity to take college-level courses while they are still attending high school. Students of different interests and backgrounds can choose from more than 30 courses to demonstrate their knowledge of rigorous academic curriculum. In addition, they can earn college credit and placement if they take and successfully score on the related AP exam.

The College Board is the nonprofit testing company that runs the Advanced Placement Program. In 2016, Maryland lost grant monies from the College Board that assisted school systems with providing funds for students to take the AP exams. House Bill 948 would provide much needed funding to school systems to pay the examination fee of every student taking the AP exam.

Local superintendents are always appreciative of any legislation that lessens the financial burden on local school systems to deliver a quality education to all students. House Bill 948 would contribute to the bottom line for school systems striving to optimize available funds in the best interests of educating our students.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM fully **supports** House Bill 948 and requests a favorable committee report.