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BILL: Senate Bill 131
TITLE: County Boards of Education – Length of School Year - Adjustments
DATE: January 30, 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
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Senate Bill 131 clarifies the authorization for a county board of education to extend the length of the school year for up to 5 school days beyond June 15 without approval from the State Board of Education or any other entity is not subject to additional conditions.

PSSAM thanks the sponsor and fully **supports** Senate Bill 131.

Local school superintendents strongly advocate that school-related calendar decisions should be determined locally and based on meeting the academic needs of our students. Meeting the 180-day school calendar regulation is complex for Maryland’s twenty-four school systems, particularly since the Governor’s Executive Order went into effect.

PSSAM greatly appreciates the school calendar adjustment flexibility legislated last year, which provided additional flexibility at the end of the school year, if needed, due to inclement weather closings.

Senate Bill 131 provides further clarification from last year’s legislation by adding that “A county board may extend the length of the school year for any reason for up to 5 school days beyond June 15 without approval from the State Board or any other entity.”

PSSAM is grateful for the clarification and again thanks the sponsor of Senate Bill 131 for any flexibility given to school boards over school calendar issues.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM fully **supports** Senate Bill 131 and urges a favorable committee report.