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BILL: Senate Bill 586
TITLE: School Maintenance Incentive Funding Act of 2019
DATE: March 5, 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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Senate Bill 586 requires the Governor to include a certain amount in the annual State budget for each county board of education to support the maintenance of school buildings and equipment; requiring a certain appropriation to be in addition to any other State funds provided to the county board in a certain fiscal year; and requiring each county board to use certain funds only for the maintenance of school buildings and equipment.

PSSAM thanks the sponsors of Senate Bill 586 and fully **supports** this legislation.

PSSAM believes that it is critical for local school systems to provide all of our public school students with school facilities conducive to learning. We also believe providing a quality system of education must include providing safe, high quality school facilities in which all students can learn. We are grateful that Maryland's school construction program addresses the critical needs of schools with the greatest relative deficiencies, including facility conditions, capacity, and educational functionality.

However, our needs far exceed the amount of funding currently provided. We strongly support this legislation that will assist local school systems with the high costs associated with maintenance of our school buildings and equipment. Senate Bill 586 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 **supports** Senate Bill 586 and urges a favorable committee report.