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BILL: Senate Bill 993
TITLE: Task Force to Study Behavioral and Mental Health in Maryland
DATE: March 20, 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environment Affairs
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Senate Bill 993 establishes the Task Force to Study Behavioral and Mental Health in Maryland; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2020; etc.

PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 993.

Local superintendents fully recognize the value of and fully support the work of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists. Together and independently, they work to help all students focus on academic and career and social/emotional development so they can achieve success in school. They are professionals who consistently help students learn to cope with a wide variety of educational, social, and/or emotional issues that affect both their school and home lives.

Senate Bill 993 would establish the Task Force to Study Behavioral and Mental Health in Maryland. We believe in the value of creating a Task Force to look into the various issues surrounding behavioral and mental health and providing recommendations to improve the delivery of multiple health services to our students.

As such, we would like to recommend that a local superintendent of schools be appointed as a member of this Task Force. We believe that a local superintendent will have valuable input, expertise, and in-depth knowledge that will help the Task Force as they study the complex behavioral and mental health issues facing our students.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 993 and requests a favorable committee report.