



Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

BILL: HB 1208 – Task Force to Study Academic Credit for Prior Learning in Higher Education
DATE: March 16, 2021
POSITION: **Support with amendments**
COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

House Bill 1208 establishes a Task Force to Study Credit for Prior Learning in Higher Education. The legislation provides the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force and prohibits members of the Task Force from receiving certain compensations but authorizes reimbursements of certain expenses. The Task Force is required to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2022.

The Public Schools Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM) supports HB 1208 with one amendment.

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program (AP) has collaborated with high schools, colleges, and universities for over 60 years to prepare students for success in higher education. AP provides driven students the opportunity to save time and money by earning college credit while in high school through earning an AP Exam score of 3 or higher. Research shows that AP students are better prepared for college and are more likely to enroll in a four-year college and earn higher GPAs while there.

The Task Force would be responsible for studying and developing uniform standards for awarding academic credit for prior learning and establishing requirements for adopting those standards. In addition, they would review current AP testing standards, collect data, and make recommendations regarding best practices for adopting new standards.

House Bill 1208 states that the Task Force will include a representative from each Maryland community college, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, the Maryland State Department of Education, and numerous colleges. While these representatives will provide great input to the Task Force, PSSAM believes that officials from local school systems should also be included in the conversation as well.

One Voice, One Vision for Maryland’s Students

Therefore, we seek an amendment to incorporate three additional members - a local school superintendent and/or their designee chosen by PSSAM, a high school principal selected by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals, and a school counselor nominated by the Maryland School Counselor Association.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM respectfully supports HB 1208 with one amendment and urges a favorable with amendments committee report.