



Bill: HB 985
Title: Public High Schools - Financial Literacy – Curriculum, Graduation Requirement, and Professional Development
Date: March 23, 2022
Position: Unfavorable
Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Matters Committee
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This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop curriculum content for a half-semester-long course in financial literacy. Each local board of education must implement the curriculum in every public high school under the board’s jurisdiction, and a student must complete the course in order to graduate from a public high school

The Public Schools Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM), representing all twenty-four local school superintendents, opposes HB 985.

Today, more than ever, graduates must be financially literate to be prepared for college, careers and responsible living. Maryland public schools have acted to ensure that all students have a strong foundation in financial education to make informed decisions and accomplish their goals. In fact, financial literacy education is already a requirement in Maryland, but not a graduation requirement.

In 2010, the State Board approved the Maryland State Curriculum for Personal Financial Literacy Education, which requires financial literacy education in elementary, middle, and high schools. Maryland’s local school systems are implementing the approved state curriculum, thereby enhancing financial literacy education in accordance with the recommendations of a previous legislative Task Force created by the General Assembly.

PSSAM appreciates the intent of this legislation, but believes it is not necessary. Local school systems must retain the right and responsibility to choose the curriculum content that best meets the needs of our students. We oppose any actions that attempt to legislate curriculum, course of study, or graduation requirements.

Therefore, PSSAM respectfully opposes House Bill 985 and urges an unfavorable committee report.