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BILL: Senate Bill 533  
TITLE: Education – Administration of Assessments – Provision of Information  
DATE: March 3, 2016  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
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Senate Bill 533 requires each county board of education to provide information relating to each assessment administered in a local school system that includes the title, purpose, grade level tested, subject area, testing window, time to complete, loss of instruction time, and accommodations for students with special needs; requires this information to be updated annually, posted online, and included in the county board's comprehensive master plan updates.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 533. The bill would require local school systems to post on their websites comprehensive and detailed information on each federally, State, or local mandated assessment. In addition, local school systems would be required to post the time, purpose, manner, and accommodations available pertaining to each assessment.

Last year's 2015 legislative session passed House Bill 452, creating the Commission to Review the Use of Assessments and Testing in Maryland Public Schools. The legislation required the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to conduct a statewide survey to identify local, state, and federally-mandated assessments by August 2015. The recently released report, MSDE's Report on Local, State and Federally Mandated Assessments in Maryland, contains more than 300 pages with input from all twenty-four school systems. It provided local superintendents the opportunity to receive additional information about the assessments given and how the data is used in other districts.

PSSAM states that the MSDE assessment report is valuable and provides a wealth of data. The next step is for the Commission to hold several additional meetings and issue their final report by July 1, 2016. The report will make recommendations on how local school systems and MSDE can improve the process regarding the administration of local, state, and federally mandated assessments.

PSSAM believes that Senate Bill 533, although well-intentioned, is ill-timed. A better course of action would be to allow the current Commission to complete their legislated charge and release their findings before additional legislation is enacted.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 533 and requests an **unfavorable** committee report.