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BILL: House Bill 1406
TITLE: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation – Adult Education – Adult High Schools
DATE: March 7, 2016
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
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House Bill 1406 repeals specified provisions of law relating to the establishment and maintenance of specified schools for adults by county boards of education; requires the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, in consultation with the State Department of Education, by regulation and on or before December 31, 2016, to develop standards for the establishment of adult high schools; and provides for the content of specified standards.

PSSAM appreciates the intent of this legislation. We recognize and support the value of providing academic instruction and education services for adult learners. However, PSSAM must **oppose** House Bill 1406.

In June 2009, legislation transferred adult and correctional education programs from the Maryland State Department of Education to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. As such, local boards of education do not have jurisdiction or provide oversight for adult education programs.

Consequently, we cannot support legislation that would create adult high schools that are not subject to our local school systems policies and programs.

However, local superintendents remain supportive of adult learning. We would like to suggest that prior to enacting legislation on adult high schools, an in-depth study of the issue, including an analysis of different models for educating adult students as well as research on successful implementation strategies, should be the next step.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **OPPOSES** HB 1406 and requests an **unfavorable** committee report.