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BILL: House Bill 866
TITLE: Primary and Secondary Education - Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures - Digital Devices
DATE: February 24, 2017
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 866 requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to develop health and safety guidelines and procedures for the use of digital devices in public school classrooms; and requiring each county board of education to implement specified health and safety guidelines and procedures for the use of digital devices in public school classrooms beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 866.

Local superintendents consistently place a high priority on the health and safety of our students which includes the use of digital devices in our school classrooms. It is important to note that the devices used in classrooms in our public schools are fully compliant with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines. All wireless devices sold in the U.S. must go through a formal FCC approval process to ensure compliance with guidelines.

Several U.S. government agencies and international organizations work cooperatively to monitor research on the health effects of digital device exposure. According to the FDA and the World Health Organization (WHO), among other organizations, to date, the weight of scientific evidence has not effectively linked exposure to digital devices with any known health problems.

PSSAM believes House Bill 866 is not necessary. Working with experts in the field, we believe that school technology policies and procedures should remain under the jurisdiction of local school superintendents working directly with local school boards and the school community.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **OPPOSES** House Bill 866.