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BILL: House Bill 197  
TITLE: Education – Remote Classroom Technology Grant Program – Establishment (Peyton’s Bill)  
DATE: February 9, 2017  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
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House Bill 197 establishes the Remote Classroom Technology Grant Program to provide grants to public schools to purchase technology to allow students with medical conditions to participate in classrooms remotely if in-person attendance is not possible; requiring the State Department of Education to implement and administer the Program; authorizes the Governor to include in the State budget an appropriation of at least \$500,000 to the Program; and authorizes the Department to adopt specified regulations.

**PSSAM supports** House Bill 197.

Local superintendents realize that there may be a time within the school career of a student that the student is unable to attend their school of enrollment because of a medical or emotional condition. Interim Instructional Services (IIS), formally Home and Hospital Teaching, is designed to provide instructional continuity to students who are unable to attend their regular school of enrollment due to a physical, medical or emotional condition. It is a short-term, itinerant instructional service mandated by state law with specific guidelines for program implementation and delivery. Preparing for the eventual return to school, the educational services provided enable students to continue their academic work and to remain current with their peers.

Today’s students are knowledgeable and increasingly proficient in the use of technology. Almost all students have had the opportunity to experience a wide variety of electronic devices such as smartphones, iPads, notebooks, laptops, game devices, iPods, netbooks, laptops, or other PDAs (personal digital assistant). Even for youngest student, the use of technology would greatly enhance the instructional services provided to a student who is unable to attend regular classes for the reasons noted above.

The Remote Classroom Technology Grant Program would establish grants that would allow local school systems to purchase technology for students to participate in classroom instruction remotely when necessary. Local school systems look forward to submitting grants to apply for the \$500,000 annual appropriation. This grant program will be a definite asset to students and provide cost savings to local school system budgets.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **SUPPORTS** House Bill 197.

