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BILL: House Bill 288
TITLE: State Department of Education – Breakfast and Lunch Programs – Funding
(Free School Meals for Students from Low-and Middle-Income Families Act)
DATE: February 9, 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 288 repeals the requirement that the State Board of Education adopt and publish standards for the administration of a subsidized feeding program; requires the State to be responsible for the student share of the costs of specified meals; prohibits a county board from charging students eligible for a reduced price breakfast or lunch for any portion of the cost of a meal; and alters the calculation for the reimbursement for specified meals to specified county boards of education.

PSSAM fully supports House Bill 288.

Local superintendents place a top priority on breakfast and lunch programs and recognize that these programs improve the health and well-being of students by providing nutritious school meals every day. House Bill 288 would provide free meals to all low-income students by eliminating the reduced-price school meal co-pays. Students who are eligible to receive reduced-price meals come from families that are already struggling financially. Maryland is a state that has a high cost of living. This fact makes it more difficult for those on the lower end of family income to balance the checkbook. We support any additional financial assistance that would improve the lives of our students and their families.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **SUPPORTS** House Bill 288.