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BILL: Senate Bill 1024
TITLE: Education - Grant for Declining Education Aid
DATE: March 15, 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
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Senate Bill 1024 establishes the criteria for a county board of education to be eligible to receive a specified State grant in a specified fiscal year; and specifies the calculation of a specified amount in a specified year for a specified purpose.

PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 1024.

Local superintendents appreciate the financial support that several school systems will receive through this legislation. Senate Bill 1024 eases the burden for school systems that are experiencing declining enrollment. This legislation provides reasonable time for school systems to address the ramifications of the financial loss they face when enrollment declines. Fluctuations in enrollment faced by local school systems are a difficult situation to manage from a fiscal standpoint.

In addition, the Kirwan Commission is delving into this issue and will ultimately provide recommendations to the legislature. The outcome could be a major modification in aid dollars to all Maryland school systems. This grant program for fiscal year 2018 will prevent five local school systems from taking drastic measures such as furloughs, reductions in programs, reductions in workforce, etc. in one year when the following year could result in modifications that would have prevented such drastic measures.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 1024.