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BILL: Senate Bill 319  
TITLE: Pathways in Technology Early College (P-TECH) School Act of 2017  
DATE: February 8, 2017  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
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Senate Bill 319 establishes the Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Program; requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, to administer and develop the Program; requires P-TECH students to be included in the full-time equivalent enrollment calculation for primary and secondary education and requires the funding calculation for credit hours at a community college to include P-TECH students.

PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 319.

Pathways in Technology Early College (P-TECH) is a state-of-the-art methodology to instruction and preparing students for success in careers. P-TECH is designed to provide successful career opportunities for students. Through collaboration between local school systems, community colleges, and corporate partners, P-TECH schools provide innovative academic programs combined with workplace opportunities that offer skills instruction and paid summer internships. After completion of the six-year program, students graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree from an accredited community college. Students graduating from P-TECH programs will have the expertise and knowledge to obtain well-paying employment in their field of study.

Currently there are six P-TECH sites located in Baltimore City (2) and in Allegany, Queen Anne's, and Prince George's County. Senate Bill 370 would expand the Governor's grand funding to double the number of sites.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 319.