



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
RE: Legislative Update
DATE: February 24, 2009

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the significant legislation that has been introduced thus far during the 2009 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

I have asked Ms. Renee Spence to briefly update the members of the State Board of Education (SBOE) on pending legislation for your review and discussion. Please find attached several pieces of legislation which may require the SBOE to decide whether to take a formal position or not.

Attachment 1 is provided for review purposes only—these proposals were presented during the January 2009 SBOE meeting.

Attachment 2 is the most current legislation that has been introduced and I have asked Ms. Spence to highlight the most significant bills during her presentation.

During the SBOE meeting you asked Ms. Spence to provide for you information on **Senate Bill 41 Higher Education-Tuition Charges-Maryland High School Students (Attachment 3)**. Since that time a companion bill has been introduced in the House, **House Bill 612** and is scheduled for a hearing on February 24, 2009 before the Ways and Means Committee. I have asked Mr. South and Ms. Spence to call the members of the SBOE prior to this upcoming hearing for further discussion on this legislation. Also, I am enclosing the fiscal note from the 2008 legislation (**Attachment 4**) which provides extensive background information relative to the history of this legislation.

Ms. Renee Spence has spoken to staff at the Maryland Higher Education Commission for their position on **Senate Bill 41/House Bill 612**. During previous sessions they have taken no position on this legislation. The University of Maryland system is currently monitoring this legislation. This proposed legislation effects Section 15-106.7 of the Education Article for Public Institutions of Higher Education. The Maryland State Department of Education has taken no position on this legislation in previous sessions deferring to the Maryland Higher Education Commission as the lead agency.

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The last attachment (**Attachment 5**) are the legislative proposals that I have asked Ms. Spence to discuss in more detail with you.

HB 792 Collective Bargaining - Topics of Negotiation
SB 340 High School Diploma – GED Options Program
SB 569 Collective Bargaining – Topics Of Negotiation
SB 857 Public High Schools and Public High School Students - Revisions and Requirements
SB 879 Gwendolyn Britt Student Health and Fitness Act
SB 903 High School Assessment - Graduation Requirement - Prohibition

As always, thank you for your continuous guidance and support. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me or Renee Spence at 410-767-0462.

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Attachments

Attachments can be located at <http://www.mlis.state.md.us/#bill>