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## **Franchot should stop meddling**

While reading the article "Franchot still pushing later school start" in the Dec. 13 Enterprise, I became increasingly perplexed, wondering why the comptroller is concerned about school year start dates.

I decided to do some research and went to the Comptroller of Maryland's website ([www.comp.state.md.us](http://www.comp.state.md.us)). There I found a compilation of the duties and responsibilities. It states the principal duty of the comptroller's office is to collect taxes. It also states "acting as Maryland's chief accountant, the comptroller pays the state's bills, maintains its books, prepares financial reports and pays state employees."

Perhaps I'm being dense, but I fail to see how the duties of the comptroller have a bearing on school year start dates. Other than the fact that taxes support public education, there is no connection between the comptroller's office and the State Department of Education. The comptroller's duty is merely to collect taxes rather than decide how they are spent, and to expend those taxes as directed.

It appears he believes it is his duty to promote business in Maryland (one assumes to collect even more taxes), but surely that is the domain of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development. The dotted line Franchot is trying to draw between summer jobs and school year start dates have absolutely nothing to do with the comptroller's duties.

Franchot's statements that the "education bureaucracy will put up a lot of resistance" and "it's a great idea, it's ultimately going to happen" are divisive, insipid and egotistical.

I won't even go into the puzzle of why the comptroller has an art initiative, although that has piqued my curiosity also. It is enough that the comptroller does not seem to know what his job is.

Since my taxes pay his salary, I request Mr. Franchot stop meddling in the business of other departments and instead mind his own. Marylanders are constantly beaten and bruised with taxation; collecting all those taxes surely must be a full-time job.

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