
By: Delegate Rzepkowski

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Lawful and Excused Absences**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a principal to excuse the absence of a student from the day
4 or days that a certain test is administered if, before the first day of examination, a
5 parent or legal guardian of the student presents the principal or the principal's
6 designee with a signed, written authorization for the student's absence; establishing
7 that an absence authorized by this Act is a lawful and excused absence; and
8 generally relating to the lawful and excused absence of a student from a school.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

10 Article - Education
11 Section 7-204
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1997 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - Education**

17 7-204.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) "Criterion-referenced test" means a measuring instrument that meets
20 common standards or criteria including validity, reliability, objectivity, efficiency, and
21 usefulness.

22 (3) "Measurement" means a procedure for determining quantity.

23 (4) "Standardized test" means a measuring instrument that:

24 (i) Is designed to measure important common outcomes of
25 representative courses of study;

26 (ii) Is administered according to specific detailed directions prescribed
27 in a manual;

28 (iii) Is scored by an objective procedure;

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1 (iv) Provides norms for comparison of individual scores with
2 representative group scores; and

3 (v) Provides information needed for judging the value of the test.

4 (5) "Test" means a method, technique, or instrument that measures the
5 amount, status, or level of progress achieved toward an instructional objective.

6 (6) "Test objectivity" means a set of conditions leading to standard
7 procedure and interpretation, and the elimination of all elements of personal bias.

8 (7) "Test reliability" means the consistency with which a test can be trusted
9 to give the same or similar scores or descriptions of behaviors at different times.

10 (8) "Test validity" means the extent to which an appraisal technique actually
11 measures the element it is designed to measure.

12 (b) (1) The State Board shall conduct a comprehensive, in-depth assessment of
13 State mandated testing and measurement programs.

14 (2) The assessment shall include for each State mandated testing or
15 measurement program an evaluation of:

16 (i) Costs of materials for administering the testing and measurement
17 programs;

18 (ii) The efficiency and effectiveness of the testing and measurement
19 programs;

20 (iii) Administrative procedures and costs associated with the testing
21 and measurement programs;

22 (iv) Allocation of time devoted to testing and measurement; and

23 (v) Methods for scoring and utilization of test results.

24 (3) The assessment shall include an analysis of the validity, reliability, and
25 objectivity of all testing and measurement instruments including:

26 (i) Standardized tests;

27 (ii) Criterion-referenced tests; and

28 (iii) The functional testing program established under § 7-203 of this
29 subtitle.

30 (c) (1) For any test instrument authorized for use in a State mandated testing
31 and measurement program, the Board shall recommend procedures and standards for
32 determining test validity, test reliability, and test objectivity.

33 (2) On or before December 1, 1992, the Board shall make a report of its
34 findings and recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1312 of the
35 State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

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1 (D) (1) A PRINCIPAL SHALL EXCUSE A STUDENT FROM THE DAY OR DAYS
2 ON WHICH A TEST IS ADMINISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION IF, BEFORE THE FIRST
3 DAY OF EXAMINATION BEGINS, A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT
4 PRESENTS A SIGNED, WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FOR THE STUDENT'S ABSENCE TO
5 THE PRINCIPAL OF THE STUDENT'S SCHOOL OR TO A PERSON DESIGNATED BY THE
6 PRINCIPAL.

7 (2) AN ABSENCE OF A STUDENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)
8 OF THIS SUBSECTION IS A LAWFUL AND EXCUSED ABSENCE.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 July 1, 1997.