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### By: Delegate Burns

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2000 Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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# Public Schools - Guidance Counselors - Maryland School Safety Partnership Program

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland School Safety Partnership Program;

- 5 requiring the State Board of Education to solicit certain grant proposals from
- 6 county boards of education; authorizing a county board to submit certain grant
- 7 proposals to the State Board; requiring the State Board to select grant proposals
- 8 for implementation based on certain criteria; requiring the State Board to
- 9 distribute certain funds to county boards for a certain purpose; requiring a
- 10 participating county board to submit certain reports to the State
- 11 Superintendent of Schools by certain dates; requiring the State Superintendent
- 12 to submit certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly by certain
- 13 dates; funding the Program; providing that certain funding for the Program may
- 14 not supplant certain other existing funding; and generally relating to the
- 15 Maryland School Safety Partnership Program.
- 16 BY adding to
- 17 Article Education
- 18 Section 5-213
- 19 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 20 (1999 Replacement Volume)
- 21

#### Preamble

22 WHEREAS, School guidance counselors are essential in providing a safe

23 learning environment for both students and faculty; and

24 WHEREAS, The American School Counselor Association recommends a student 25 to guidance counselor ratio of 250 to 1; and

26 WHEREAS, Staffing levels for public school guidance counselors in Maryland

27 are below the national recommended level; and

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1 WHEREAS, The goal of the Maryland School Safety Partnership Program is to 2 reduce the current student to guidance counselor ratio to 350 to 1 in elementary 3 schools, 300 to 1 in middle schools, and 250 to 1 in high schools; and

4 WHEREAS, Additional State resources are needed to increase the number of 5 guidance counselors in Maryland public schools; now, therefore,

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 7 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### **Article - Education**

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9 5-213.

10 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND SCHOOL SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO ASSIST
 COUNTY BOARDS IN HIRING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS IN PUBLIC
 SCHOOLS THAT HAVE A HIGH INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST
 STUDENTS OR FACULTY OR HAVE A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY
 FOR A FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH.

16 (C) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS.

THE STATE BOARD SHALL SOLICIT GRANT PROPOSALS FROM
 COUNTY BOARDS IN THE STATE FOR HIRING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.

19(3)(I)A COUNTY BOARD MAY SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR A GRANT TO20HIRE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS FOR SPECIFIED SCHOOLS UNDER THE21PROGRAM.

22 (II) A PROPOSAL OF A COUNTY BOARD SHALL INCLUDE THE 23 AMOUNT OF THE GRANT REQUESTED AND THE INTENDED USE OF THE GRANT.

24 (4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL SELECT GRANT PROPOSALS TO BE 25 IMPLEMENTED, GIVING PRIORITY TO PROPOSALS FOR:

26(I)DIVERSE AREAS OF THE STATE, WITH AT LEAST TWO SCHOOLS27IN EACH COUNTY SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, IF POSSIBLE;

28 (II) SCHOOLS THAT HAVE A HIGH INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE
29 COMMITTED AGAINST STUDENTS OR FACULTY; AND

30(III)SCHOOLS IN WHICH AT LEAST 25% OF THE STUDENTS QUALIFY31 FOR A FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH.

32 (5) AFTER THE STATE BOARD SELECTS A PROPOSAL OF A COUNTY
33 BOARD, THE STATE BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO A COUNTY BOARD FUNDS TO
34 IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROPOSAL.

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(D) (1) A PARTICIPATING COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
 DETAILING THE USE OF THE GRANTS AND THE RATIO OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS TO
 STUDENTS COUNTYWIDE AND PER PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TO THE STATE
 SUPERINTENDENT BY OCTOBER 1, 2001, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.

5 (2) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE
6 PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR AND, UNDER § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
7 ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY JANUARY 1, 2002, AND EACH YEAR
8 THEREAFTER.

9 (E) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 AND EACH SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR, THE 10 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE \$15,000,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET TO IMPLEMENT THE 11 PROGRAM.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS MADE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED TO
 SUPPLANT THE EXISTING STATE SHARE OF BASIC CURRENT EXPENSES UNDER §
 5-202 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 16 July 1, 2000.

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