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By: **Senators Middleton, Currie, Della, Dyson, Hafer, Lawlah, McFadden,  
Roesser, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 30, 2002

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CHAPTER 185

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Adult Education and Literacy Services**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland State Department of Education to  
4 distribute certain grants for adult education, based on certain factors, and in  
5 accordance with a certain plan; ~~requiring the Governor to include certain~~  
6 ~~appropriations in the State budget for adult education and literacy services~~  
7 providing that funding for certain competitive grants for adult education and  
8 literacy services shall be as provided in the State Budget; requiring the  
9 Department to create a method for funding certain adult education services;  
10 requiring the Department to submit a report of its methodology to the  
11 Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly by a certain date; and  
12 generally relating to funding for adult education and literacy services.

13 BY adding to  
14 Article - Education  
15 Section 5-217  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2001 Replacement Volume)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, It is estimated that at least 613,640 Maryland adults lack a high  
20 school diploma; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the National Adult Literacy Survey, over 20% of  
22 Maryland adults function at the lowest literacy level; and

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 10% of Maryland residents are foreign born and  
2 most need to learn English language skills; and

3 WHEREAS, Only 42% of the incarcerated adults in Maryland who lack a high  
4 school diploma can be accommodated in State-mandated adult education programs;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Maryland currently serves only 3% to 4% of the estimated 729,640  
7 adults with literacy needs; and

8 WHEREAS, Maryland invests \$45 per student for adult education, an amount  
9 equivalent to the cost of a GED textbook; and

10 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2002 Maryland appropriated less funding for adult  
11 education than it did in fiscal year 1990; and

12 WHEREAS, The State appropriation for adult education is less than half the  
13 amount that is needed to generate the \$75 federal match that is available for every  
14 \$25 of State funding; and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated that adult education has a 17% to 34% rate of return  
16 on investment in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Dropouts who get a diploma can generate an estimated \$7,000 in  
18 additional annual income; and

19 WHEREAS, The literacy level of the parent is the best predictor of the literacy  
20 achievement of the child; and

21 WHEREAS, A Task Force to Study Adult Education appointed by the Governor  
22 and the General Assembly in 2001 studied adult education services, outcomes,  
23 workforce connection, and funding; and

24 WHEREAS, The Task Force to Study Adult Education recommended a  
25 substantial increase in the State investment for adult education services and that  
26 State appropriations be needs based; now, therefore,

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

29 **Article - Education**

30 5-217.

31 (A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR  
32 ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE PLAN FOR ADULT  
33 EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY.

34 (2) THE GRANTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE BASED  
35 ON NEED AND PERFORMANCE.

1 (3) GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE USED FOR ADULT  
2 EDUCATION AND LITERACY SERVICES, INCLUDING:

3 (I) GED INSTRUCTION;

4 (II) THE MARYLAND ADULT EXTERNAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM  
5 UNDER § 7-205.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;

6 (III) ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES;

7 (IV) FAMILY LITERACY; AND

8 (V) BASIC SKILLS AND LITERACY INSTRUCTION.

9 (B) ~~(1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE  
10 STATE BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$2,400,800 FOR COMPETITIVE  
11 GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

12 ~~(2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
13 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR GRANTS  
14 UNDER THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DETERMINATION OF NEED AND  
15 THE COST OF INSTRUCTION FOR ADULT EDUCATION UNDER THE METHODOLOGY  
16 DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT FUNDING FOR THE COMPETITIVE GRANTS UNDER  
17 THIS SECTION SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland State  
19 Department of Education shall develop a method for deriving the amount of the  
20 annual State aid for adult education on the basis of need and the cost of instruction as  
21 required under § 5-217 of the Education Article by this Act and submit the  
22 methodology to the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly on or  
23 before September 15, 2002.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 July 1, 2002.