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By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 25, 2006

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CHAPTER 276

AN ACT concerning

**Education - Educational Technology Pilot Program - Elementary Schools**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Educational Technology Pilot Program to be implemented in the elementary schools of certain local jurisdictions in the State; requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to certain organizations for implementation of the pilot program; providing for the purpose of the pilot program; requiring the State Superintendent and certain organizations to develop a plan to implement the pilot program; requiring the plan to meet certain requirements; providing for the funding of the pilot program; requiring certain boards of education to submit a certain report on or before a certain date including certain information; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Educational Technology Pilot Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education

Section 7-904 and 7-905

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Education

Section 7-10A-01 through 7-10A-08, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle

"Subtitle 10A. Educational Technology Pilot Program"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, With today's wireless and notebook technologies, it is possible for students to work together on a network with Internet access from every desk in every classroom, not just in the computer lab; and

WHEREAS, The best time to introduce students to computer technology is in elementary school, so that their acquaintance with how computers operate can form a solid foundation for their future needs; and

WHEREAS, Just providing technological hardware to schools is not sufficient to ensure the integration of computers into the lessons taught in the classroom, teachers must be trained in order to achieve technological integration with their curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has the opportunity to create a pilot program within designated elementary schools, in certain areas of the State, designed to introduce students to computer technology and train teachers to integrate such technology into their curriculum; and

WHEREAS, A computer technology pilot program will add to the increased performance of the State's elementary school students participating in the program and provide performance indicators that illustrate how teachers' familiarity with technology and teaching resources within the program have increased; now, therefore,

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

**Article - Education**

7-904.

(A) The State Superintendent may:

(1) Procure and develop curriculum-based learning resources using state-of-the-art technologies and techniques designed to increase the achievement levels of all students in all subject areas;

(2) Procure and develop long-term comprehensive instructional programming and associated support resources that ensure maximum access by all educational institutions;

(3) Develop standards for teachers and other school system employees for the offering of courses or services on the Internet or through other developing technologies;

(4) Review courses and courseware to assure quality and alignment with the Maryland content standards and other appropriate standards;

(5) Track and issue periodic reports on the type and frequency of courses or services utilized by teachers and other professionals under this section; and

(6) Award grants to eligible private or public consortia to enable eligible consortia to develop state-of-the-art technology-enhanced instructional products, resources, and services for use in the classroom, including:

(i) The development, production, and distribution of instructional programming for students;

(ii) Staff development programming for teachers; and

(iii) Incorporation of creative state-of-the-art applications of technology-enhanced learning resources, such as:

1. Computer software;
2. Databases;
3. Films;
4. Transparencies;
5. Multimedia video and audio discs;
6. Telecommunications;
7. Educational television;
8. Print resources; and
9. Web-based resources and courses.

(B) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 10A OF THIS TITLE, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL AWARD A GRANT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTARY AGE STUDENTS TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE THAT TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR CURRICULUM.

7-905.

In awarding grants under [§ 7-904] § 7-904(A) of this subtitle, the State Superintendent shall give priority to applications describing programs or systems that are developed:

- (1) For statewide application at a reasonable cost;
- (2) In consultation with classroom teachers; and

(3) Through consultation and collaboration with appropriate educational entities to ensure relevance to State content standards and to other appropriate State standards.

SUBTITLE 10A. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

7-10A-01.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

(C) "PROGRAM PROVIDER" MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT, AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT:

(1) EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSES ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS;

(2) HAS DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING A RANGE OF ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS INCLUDING:

(I) ASSESSING PERFORMANCE AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY;

(II) DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY; AND

(III) IMPLEMENTING THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS;

(3) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT RELATED TO THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS AND BY ADMINISTRATORS;

(4) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS;

(5) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO ASSIST WITH AND PROVIDE ON-SITE, HANDS-ON GUIDANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

(6) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO CREATE AN ON-LINE COMMUNITY THAT ALLOWS TEACHERS, PARENTS, POLICYMAKERS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO COMMUNICATE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING AND FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

7-10A-02.

THERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

7-10A-03.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTARY AGE STUDENTS TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE SUCH TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR CURRICULUM.

7-10A-04.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-10A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND PROGRAM PROVIDERS, CHOSEN BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM IN TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL SYSTEMS:

- (1) BALTIMORE CITY;
- (2) DORCHESTER COUNTY;
- (3) PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY;
- (4) SOMERSET COUNTY; AND
- (5) ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

7-10A-05.

THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL:

- (1) PROVIDE A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL MEDIUM FOR STUDENTS IN THE PILOT PROGRAM;
- (2) BE CAPABLE OF BEING IMPLEMENTED AT A REASONABLE COST;
- (3) ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP STUDENTS' FAMILIARITY WITH COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE SUCH TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR CURRICULUM;
- (4) ADD TO THE INCREASED PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM; AND
- (5) PROVIDE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS THAT ILLUSTRATE HOW TEACHERS' FAMILIARITY WITH TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHING RESOURCES WITHIN THE PILOT PROGRAM HAVE INCREASED.

7-10A-06.

ON APPROVAL OF THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM INTO A SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL PROVIDE A GRANT TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

7-10A-07.

~~BEGINNING WITH THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE BUDGET FOR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

FUNDING FOR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

7-10A-08.

IN THE COUNTIES IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ISSUE A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF, AND THE BENEFITS ACCRUED FROM, THE PILOT PROGRAM, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHIN 2 YEARS FROM THE DATE THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS A GRANT TO THE COUNTY BOARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2006.