

SENATE BILL 128

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By: **Senators Raskin, Britt, Della, Forehand, Garagiola, Lenett, Madaleno, Middleton, Muse, Peters, Pugh, Robey, Rosapepe, Simonaire, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Public Schools – Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and Civic**
3 **Responsibility for Students**

4 FOR the purpose of acknowledging federal law that establishes Constitution Day and
5 Citizenship Day and to celebrate that day in the public schools; requiring each
6 county board to establish a certain program to teach students in its schools
7 about the United States Constitution and the Maryland Constitution; requiring
8 the program to include certain events and the opportunity for certain students
9 to register to vote; and generally relating to Constitution Day and Citizenship
10 Day and civic responsibility for students.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Education
13 Section 7–116
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2006 Replacement Volume)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article - Education**7-116.****(A) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO:**

(1) ACKNOWLEDGE 36 U.S.C. § 106, WHICH DESIGNATES SEPTEMBER 17 OF EACH YEAR AS "CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY" TO COMMEMORATE THE SIGNING OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1787; AND

(2) CELEBRATE "CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY" IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND HELP INSTILL IN STUDENTS KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY, IMPORTANCE, AND ENDURING MEANING OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION ON THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE.

(B) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUB. L. 108-447 § 111(B), EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION TO BE HELD ON "CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY" EACH YEAR TO TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT:

(I) THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION; AND

(II) THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.

(2) THE PROGRAM OF EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES, DISCUSSIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND EVENTS COMMEMORATING THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION; AND

(II) THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.