

# SENATE BILL 689

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SB 967/08 – EHE

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By: **Senator Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Study Group on Expanding Enrollment Options for High School**  
3 **Students**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Study Group on Expanding Enrollment Options for  
5 High School Students; establishing the membership and staffing of the Study  
6 Group; providing for the designation of co–chairs of the Study Group; requiring  
7 the Study Group to review, evaluate, and make findings and recommendations  
8 regarding certain issues; requiring the Study Group to submit a report to the  
9 Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; prohibiting a member of  
10 the Study Group from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of  
11 the Study Group to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the  
12 termination of this Act; and generally relating to expanding enrollment options  
13 for high school students.

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, Many Maryland students find that the traditional 4–year  
16 enrollment plan for high school completion does not serve their personal academic  
17 interests and needs and are in search of legitimate approaches to the high school  
18 program configuration that permits from 3 to 5 years of enrollment as appropriate to  
19 their needs; and

20 WHEREAS, Some Maryland students are pursuing an accelerated high school  
21 course sequence and find that they need specialized academic experiences in lieu of or  
22 during their senior year to facilitate attainment of their personal academic goals; and

23 WHEREAS, Some Maryland high school students find that the course offerings  
24 available at community colleges, 4–year colleges, and universities better match their  
25 personal academic goals; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Maryland high schools typically provide Advanced Placement  
2 courses or International Baccalaureate programs that equate to freshman level college  
3 or university courses, and that often are accepted by colleges and universities for  
4 college credit; and

5 WHEREAS, Some Maryland high school students achieve their academic work  
6 their senior year through dual enrollment arrangements that involve courses taught  
7 at the student's home high school and other courses that are taught at a community  
8 college, 4-year college, or university, with the college or university work accepted by  
9 the student's high school toward the awarding of the Maryland high school diploma;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Dually enrolled students are expected to defray the costs of higher  
12 education enrollment while enrolled at both the high school and the college or  
13 university, and are ineligible to access financial aid offered through higher education  
14 institutions, such as those available through the federal Pell Grant Program; and

15 WHEREAS, Financially challenged families frequently need financial  
16 assistance in order to support the student's academic work as they transition into  
17 higher education; and

18 WHEREAS, Local school systems would be able to serve accelerated students  
19 more effectively if they were able to develop cooperative agreements involving the  
20 student, parent, and the higher education institution; and

21 WHEREAS, Some students, particularly students with disabilities and English  
22 Language Learners, find that it takes more than 4 years to successfully complete their  
23 high school programs; and

24 WHEREAS, Schools frequently have difficulty matching the 4-year high school  
25 program to the individual needs of students who more appropriately would complete  
26 the high school program in more or less time than the standard; now, therefore,

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
28 MARYLAND, That

29 (a) There is a Study Group on Expanding Enrollment Options for High  
30 School Students.

31 (b) The Study Group consists of the following members:

32 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, who shall be the cochair of  
33 the Study Group, appointed by the President of the Senate;

34 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, who shall be the cochair of  
35 the Study Group, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

1           (3)    The State Superintendent of Schools, or an individual designated  
2 by the State Superintendent;

3           (4)    One representative of the Public Schools Superintendents  
4 Association, designated by the Association;

5           (5)    The Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or  
6 an individual designated by the Secretary;

7           (6)    Two principals of Maryland comprehensive high schools, one from  
8 a large enrollment (1,400 or more students) high school and one from a small  
9 enrollment (less than 1,000 students) high school, designated by the Maryland  
10 Association of Secondary School Principals;

11          (7)    One representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of  
12 Education, designated by the Association;

13          (8)    One assistant superintendent for instruction, designated by the  
14 State Superintendent of Schools;

15          (9)    One representative of the Community Colleges Association of  
16 Maryland, designated by the Association;

17          (10)   One representative of Maryland public 4–year colleges and  
18 universities, designated by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland;

19          (11)   One representative of Maryland’s independent 4–year colleges or  
20 universities, designated by the Maryland Association of Independent Colleges and  
21 Universities; and

22          (12)   One representative of the Maryland business community  
23 designated by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

24          (c)    The State Department of Education, the University System of Maryland,  
25 and the Maryland Higher Education Commission jointly shall provide staff support for  
26 the Study Group.

27          (d)    A member of the Study Group:

28               (1)    May not receive compensation for serving on the Study Group; but

29               (2)    Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
30 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

31          (e)    (1)    The Study Group shall review, evaluate, and make findings and  
32 recommendations regarding the following issues relating to enrollment options for the  
33 senior year for Maryland high school students:

1 (i) Data regarding students over the past three years who have  
2 participated in Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate programs,  
3 dual enrollment, and early admission to college programs;

4 (ii) Data regarding students over the past three years who  
5 dropped out of high school and selected alternative routes for completion of their  
6 educational goals, including the GED;

7 (iii) Benefits and disadvantages of Advanced Placement and  
8 International Baccalaureate programs, dual enrollment, and early admission to college  
9 programs;

10 (iv) Benefits and disadvantages of GED and other alternative  
11 routes for completion of educational goals for students exiting high school before  
12 graduation;

13 (v) Evaluation of the quality of academic experiences for high  
14 school students taking college or university courses versus Advanced Placement or  
15 International Baccalaureate programs;

16 (vi) Support and guidance provided and needed for families of  
17 students seeking challenging academic experiences in their senior year of high school  
18 or in lieu of the senior year of high school;

19 (vii) Support and guidance provided and needed for families of  
20 struggling students who find that the 4-year high school program is inadequate to  
21 meet their needs;

22 (viii) Fiscal implications for local school systems, colleges and  
23 universities, and families on account of the offering of quality experiences for high  
24 school seniors;

25 (ix) School accountability issues associated with the  
26 implementation of programs for high school students seeking challenging academic  
27 experiences and for those needing more than four years to complete a successful high  
28 school experience; and

29 (x) Successful efforts in other states that are reconfiguring high  
30 school experiences to meet student needs with nontraditional schedules.

31 (2) The Study Group's findings and recommendations at a minimum  
32 shall include:

33 (i) Short-term strategies for reconfiguring high school  
34 programs for nontraditional students;

35 (ii) Funding and fiscal considerations that must be considered if  
36 high school programs are reconfigured for nontraditional students;

1 (iii) Recommendations about the lack of uniformity among  
2 Maryland colleges and universities in acceptable minimum Advanced Placement  
3 scores for college credit;

4 (iv) Examination of the awarding of Advanced Placement credit  
5 by colleges and universities;

6 (v) Recommendations for State Board action regarding the role  
7 of GED programs as alternative graduation routes, revisions in high school graduation  
8 requirements, and reexamination of the definition of the high school senior year, as  
9 necessary;

10 (vi) Recommendations related to appropriate long-term funding  
11 strategies for students in dual enrollment or senior year placement at colleges or  
12 universities;

13 (vii) A uniform plan that recognizes and supports the multiple  
14 pathways that students take to achieve the Maryland high school diploma in fewer or  
15 more than the traditional 4-year time frame; and

16 (viii) Requisite record keeping that would need to be initiated to  
17 ensure legal sufficiency and compliance with State and federal laws.

18 (3) On or before December 1, 2009, the Study Group shall report its  
19 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of  
20 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the  
23 end of June 30, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
24 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.