

# SENATE BILL 825

F1, P1

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CF HB 1278

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By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Legislative Services – Study – Capacity and Accountability of**  
3 **State Department of Education**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Legislative Services to contract with a  
5 certain consultant to conduct a certain study and make certain recommendations  
6 regarding certain responsibilities and duties of the State Department of Education;  
7 requiring the consultant to collect certain data, account for the spending of certain  
8 funding by certain entities, take certain actions for a certain purpose in a certain  
9 manner, and report to the Accountability and Implementation Board; requiring the  
10 consultant to have certain qualifications; requiring the State Department of  
11 Education to provide certain information to certain entities within a certain period  
12 of time; requiring the State Department of Education to submit a certain report  
13 regarding the allocation of certain funds to the General Assembly on or before a  
14 certain date and quarterly thereafter; requiring the Department of Legislative  
15 Services to report to the Legislative Policy Committee and certain committees of the  
16 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this  
17 Act; and generally relating to a study of the capacity and accountability of the State  
18 Department of Education.

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That:

21 (a) (1) The Department of Legislative Services shall contract with a consultant  
22 to study and make recommendations regarding the capacity and accountability of the State  
23 Department of Education to carry out its responsibilities and duties under the Education  
24 Article and to implement The Blueprint for Maryland's Future as described in Title 1,  
25 Subtitle 3 of the Education Article, as enacted by Chapter 771 of the Acts of the General  
26 Assembly of 2019.

27 (2) In addition to the responsibilities under paragraph (1) of this  
28 subsection, the outside consultant shall:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) collect data and account for how the State Department of  
2 Education and local education agencies spend funding provided under the federal  
3 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Additional  
4 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations provided in the federal  
5 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021;

6 (ii) with regard to student learning loss due to the COVID-19  
7 pandemic:

8 1. recommend ongoing requirements for data collection and  
9 analysis by the State Department of Education and the Maryland Longitudinal Data  
10 System;

11 2. review mitigation plans by county boards of education;  
12 and

13 3. review corrective actions taken by the State Department  
14 of Education and county boards of education; and

15 (iii) submit a report to the Accountability and Implementation Board.

16 (b) The consultant hired in accordance with subsection (a) of this section shall be  
17 independent from the State Department of Education and have expertise in the capacity  
18 and accountability of state and local education agencies.

19 (c) On request of the Department of Legislative Services or the consultant hired  
20 in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the State Department of Education shall  
21 provide to the requesting entity, not later than 30 days after the date of the request,  
22 information regarding:

23 (1) the allocation of funds provided under the federal Coronavirus Aid,  
24 Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act by the State Department of Education and local  
25 education agencies;

26 (2) written guidance and professional development materials provided to  
27 county boards of education to implement learning loss mitigation measures, including:

28 (i) evidence-based best practices;

29 (ii) practice manuals; and

30 (iii) handbooks;

31 (3) analysis of the accuracy of implementation of learning loss mitigation  
32 measures and outcomes, including the identification of gaps in service; and

1           (4) any actions taken by the State Department of Education to correct  
2 issues regarding measures taken by the State Department of Education or local education  
3 agencies to mitigate student learning loss.

4           (d) On or before September 1, 2021, and quarterly thereafter, the State  
5 Department of Education shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with §  
6 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on the allocation of funds provided under the  
7 federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act by the State  
8 Department of Education and local education agencies.

9           (e) On or before December 1, 2021, the Department of Legislative Services shall  
10 report to the Accountability and Implementation Board and, in accordance with § 2–1257  
11 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee, the Senate Education,  
12 Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation  
13 Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Committee on Ways and  
14 Means on the implementation of this Act.

15           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
16 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2022, this  
17 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no  
18 further force and effect.