

HB0200/623528/1

BY: Delegate Fisher

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 200
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “**Schools**” insert “**and Alternative School Options**”; in line 9, before “altering” insert “requiring, on or before a certain date each year, each county board of education to provide certain information to the parents or legal guardians of students who attend a failing school; requiring a failing school to retain the failing school designation until the school receives a certain rating for a certain number of school years; requiring students who are attending a failing school to be provided the opportunity to attend an alternative school; requiring a parent or legal guardian of a student who attends a failing school to notify the county board of a decision to continue attending the school or to attend an alternative school, a boarding school, or a military boarding school; establishing the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program to provide certain scholarships for certain students; requiring each county board to provide a list of available military boarding school options to the parent or legal guardian of certain students; requiring a parent or legal guardian of a certain student to notify the county board of a decision to continue attending the school or to attend a military boarding school; requiring the local school system of a certain student to pay for the student to attend a certain military boarding school;”; and after line 26, insert:

“BY adding to
Article - Education
Section 5-244 and 5-245
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 6, after line 30, insert:

“5-244.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL” MEANS:

(I) A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT IS NOT A FAILING SCHOOL IN THE SAME COUNTY;

(II) A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL; OR

(III) A BOARDING SCHOOL, INCLUDING A MILITARY BOARDING SCHOOL.

(3) “FAILING SCHOOL” MEANS A SCHOOL THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN ONE STAR UNDER THE STAR RATING SYSTEM FOR AT LEAST THE PRIOR 3 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL YEARS.

(4) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BROADENING OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TODAY PROGRAM.

(5) “STAR RATING SYSTEM” MEANS THE SYSTEM THAT AWARDS A SCORE TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL UNDER THE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD AS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT.

(6) “TOTAL PER PUPIL AMOUNT” MEANS THE COUNTY BOARD PER PUPIL SPENDING FOR THE EDUCATION AID PROGRAMS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, AND BASED ON THE STAR RATINGS AWARDED UNDER THE STAR RATING SYSTEM DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING DECEMBER, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF EACH STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A FAILING SCHOOL:

AND (I) NOTIFICATION THAT THE SCHOOL IS A FAILING SCHOOL;

(II) A LIST OF AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL OPTIONS.

(2) A SCHOOL SHALL CONTINUE TO BE DESIGNATED A FAILING SCHOOL UNTIL THE SCHOOL RECEIVES AT LEAST A TWO-STAR RATING FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL YEARS.

(C) (1) A STUDENT ATTENDING A FAILING SCHOOL SHALL BE PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL.

(2) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN RECEIVES INFORMATION UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT SHALL NOTIFY THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE STUDENT'S DECISION TO:

(I) CONTINUE ATTENDING THE CURRENT SCHOOL; OR

(II) ATTEND A PARTICULAR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL.

(D) (1) THERE IS A BROADENING OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TODAY PROGRAM.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE:

(I) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM TO ATTEND A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL; AND

(II) RIGHT TO LEARN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WHO ATTEND A FAILING SCHOOL AND CHOOSE TO ATTEND A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

(Over)

(4) (I) FOR EACH STUDENT WHO RECEIVES A RIGHT TO LEARN SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE APPLICABLE COUNTY BOARD SHALL REMIT FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT EQUAL TO THE TOTAL PER PUPIL AMOUNT.

(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RETURN ANY UNUSED FUNDS REMITTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH TO THE COUNTY BOARD.

(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

5-245.

(A) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL PROVIDE A LIST OF AVAILABLE MILITARY BOARDING SCHOOL OPTIONS TO THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF EACH STUDENT WHO:

(1) THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES IS VIOLENT; OR

(2) RECEIVES CONTINUOUS DISCIPLINARY ACTION, AS DETERMINED BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.

(B) A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WHO RECEIVES A LIST OF AVAILABLE MILITARY BOARDING SCHOOL OPTIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOTIFY THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE STUDENT'S DECISION TO:

(1) CONTINUE ATTENDING THE CURRENT SCHOOL; OR

(2) ATTEND A MILITARY BOARDING SCHOOL.

(C) THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OF A STUDENT WHO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES IS VIOLENT OR HAS RECEIVED CONTINUOUS DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHALL PAY FOR THE STUDENT TO ATTEND A MILITARY BOARDING SCHOOL INCLUDED ON THE LIST PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.”.