

HOUSE BILL 475

F1, F5

(4lr0562)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Ways and Means / Education, Energy, and the Environment* —

Introduced by **Delegates Korman, Love, and Wolek**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program – Establishment**
3 **(Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program within
5 the State Department of Education; requiring the Department to administer the
6 Program; authorizing certain organizations to apply for grants from the Program;
7 requiring the Department periodically to review the open–source phonics learning
8 materials to ensure the materials are consistent with best practices in literacy
9 education, including the science of reading; and generally relating to the
10 Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Education
13 Section 7–135
14 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7–135.

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

(2) “OPEN–SOURCE” MEANS MATERIAL WITH EITHER FREELY
OBTAINABLE SOURCE CODE, A LICENSE FOR MODIFICATION, OR PERMISSION FOR
FREE DISTRIBUTION.

(3) “OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATION” MEANS ~~A~~ ANY
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR PUBLIC
LIBRARY THAT PRODUCES OR DISTRIBUTES FREE, OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS
MATERIALS IN THE STATE.

(4) “PHONICS” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4–136 OF THIS
ARTICLE.

(5) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS MATCHING
GRANT PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS AN OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM IN
THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO
OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE FREE, OPEN–SOURCE
PHONICS LEARNING MATERIALS TO BE USED BY ADULTS TO TUTOR STUDENTS IN
THE STATE.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

(E) (1) AN OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATION MAY SUBMIT AN
APPLICATION FOR A GRANT ON THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES.

(2) AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT SHALL INCLUDE A PLAN TO
ENSURE THAT THE OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATION IS ABLE TO PROVIDE
FREE, OPEN–SOURCE PHONICS LEARNING MATERIALS ~~TO ENABLE~~ THAT:

1 **(I) ARE CONSISTENT WITH BEST PRACTICES IN LITERACY**
2 **EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE SCIENCE OF READING; AND**

3 **(II) ENABLE** ADULTS TO TUTOR STUDENTS IN THE STATE.

4 **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISBURSE GRANTS TO OPEN-SOURCE**
5 **PHONICS ORGANIZATIONS.**

6 **(F) PERIODICALLY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE OPEN-SOURCE**
7 **PHONICS LEARNING MATERIALS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION TO ENSURE THE**
8 **MATERIALS ARE CONSISTENT WITH BEST PRACTICES IN LITERACY EDUCATION,**
9 **INCLUDING THE SCIENCE OF READING.**

10 ~~**(F)**~~ **(G)** **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

11 **(1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND EVERY OTHER YEAR**
12 **THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**
13 **THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
14 **ARTICLE; AND**

15 **(2) COLLECT STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR**
16 **THIS PURPOSE.**

17 ~~**(G)**~~ **(H)** **FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**
18 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE PROGRAM.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.