

# HOUSE BILL 795

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HB 1110/23 – W&M

4lr2966

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By: **Delegate Bhandari**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Curriculum Content Standards – Peace and Conflict Studies**  
3 **(Peace and Conflict Studies Education Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content  
5 standards for a high school course on peace and conflict studies; requiring each  
6 county board of education to implement a course on peace and conflict studies in each  
7 public high school beginning in a certain school year; requiring each public high  
8 school to hire a mediator for a certain purpose; and generally relating to a course on  
9 peace and conflict studies in public high schools.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education

12 Section 7–205.5 and 7–452

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **7–205.5.**

19 **(A) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP CURRICULUM CONTENT**  
20 **STANDARDS FOR A COURSE ON PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
21 **STUDENTS IN THE STATE.**

22 **(2) THE PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES CURRICULUM CONTENT**  
23 **STANDARDS SHALL:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(I)    ENABLE STUDENTS TO NAVIGATE CONFLICTS AND ENGAGE**  
2 **IN PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS THROUGH INSTRUCTION ON THE FOLLOWING**  
3 **SKILLS:**

4                   1.    **ACTIVE LISTENING;**

5                   2.    **MEDIATION; AND**

6                   3.    **NEGOTIATION;**

7                   **(II)   INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

8                   1.    **CYBERSECURITY;**

9                   2.    **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE;**

10                  3.    **HISTORY;**

11                  4.    **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES;**

12                  5.    **LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE;**

13                  6.    **PEACE ENGINEERING;**

14                  7.    **PHILOSOPHY;**

15                  8.    **SOCIAL WORK;**

16                  9.    **TECHNOLOGY; AND**

17                  10. **ANY OTHER TOPICS THAT PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH**  
18 **AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF CONFLICTS; AND**

19                   **(III)   REQUIRE COMPLETION OF AT LEAST 8 STUDENT SERVICE**  
20 **HOURS DEDICATED TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.**

21                  **(B)   (1)   BEGINNING IN THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY**  
22 **BOARD SHALL IMPLEMENT A COURSE ON PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES USING THE**  
23 **CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER**  
24 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IN EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY.**

25                   **(2)   THE COURSE ON PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES SHALL BE**  
26 **TAUGHT BY A CERTIFIED MEDIATOR WHO HAS CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS.**

1           **(3) (I) A HIGH SCHOOL MAY ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH**  
2 **COMMUNITY REMEDIATION CENTERS TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN COMPLETING THE**  
3 **STUDENT SERVICE HOURS REQUIREMENT OF THE COURSE.**

4           **(II) THE STUDENT SERVICE HOURS REQUIRED UNDER**  
5 **SUBSECTION (A)(2)(III) OF THIS SECTION SHALL COUNT TOWARD A STUDENT'S**  
6 **SERVICE HOURS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT.**

7           **(C) EACH COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH**  
8 **THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

9           **(D) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**  
10 **SECTION.**

11 **7-452.**

12           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "MEDIATOR" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS TRAINED**  
13 **IN FACILITATING NEGOTIATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN DISPUTING**  
14 **PARTIES TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS.**

15           **(B) BEGINNING IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH PUBLIC HIGH**  
16 **SCHOOL IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE A MEDIATOR TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND**  
17 **SUPPORT TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL RELATING TO CONFLICT**  
18 **RESOLUTION AND PEACEFUL COMMUNICATIONS IN RESOLVING DISPUTES ARISING**  
19 **AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, INCLUDING THROUGH:**

20                   **(1) WORKSHOPS;**

21                   **(2) TRAINING; AND**

22                   **(3) ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS IN CONFLICT.**

23           **(C) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**  
24 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO EMPLOY**  
25 **AND TRAIN MEDIATORS IN EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE.**

26           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**  
27 **1, 2024.**