
By: Delegate Rzepkowski

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 1996

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools - Computer Purchase Matching Fund Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Educational Computer Purchase Matching Fund
4 Program in the Department of Education; authorizing the Department to use
5 money from the Fund to pay a certain portion of the cost of computers purchased by
6 parent teacher units for public elementary schools in the State; requiring county
7 superintendents to inform public elementary school principals of the Program and
8 requiring principals to inform parent teacher units of the Program; specifying
9 certain requirements for Program applications; establishing certain Programs
10 procedures; requiring principals of schools that receive computers to submit certain
11 reports to county superintendents and requiring county superintendents to submit
12 certain reports to the State Superintendent; authorizing the Department to adopt
13 regulations to implement and administer the Program; providing for the funding of
14 the Program; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the purchase of
15 computers for public elementary schools.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article - Education
18 Section 5-201(c)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

21 BY adding to
22 Article - Education
23 Section 7-106.1
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

28 **Article - Education**

29 5-201.

30 (c) The State Comptroller shall charge against and, as provided in this section,
31 pay from the General State School Fund the following annual appropriations for:

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1 (1) The support of the Department, including the expenses of the State
2 Board and the support and expenses of the office of the State Superintendent;

3 (2) The Maryland Teachers' Retirement System;

4 (3) The education of handicapped children;

5 (4) Subsidized or free feeding programs;

6 (5) The administration and supervision of vocational education in public
7 high and vocational schools;

8 (6) Physical education and recreation;

9 (7) Case and guidance service for handicapped individuals who need
10 vocational rehabilitation;

11 (8) Equivalence examinations;

12 (9) Public libraries;

13 (10) Adult education;

14 (11) The State share of basic current expenses as provided in §5-202 of this
15 subtitle;

16 (12) Student transportation, as provided in § 5-203 of this subtitle; [and]

17 (13) The school building construction aid as provided in § 5-301(c) of this
18 title; AND

19 (14) THE EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER PURCHASE MATCHING FUND
20 PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN § 7-106.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

21 7-106.1.

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

24 (2) "COMPUTER SUPPLIER" MEANS A MERCHANT WHO DIRECTLY OR
25 INDIRECTLY OFFERS OR MAKES AVAILABLE TO CONSUMERS ANY EDUCATIONAL
26 COMPUTERS.

27 (3) "EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER" MEANS THE COMPUTER AND
28 NECESSARY COMPONENTS THAT ENABLE A STUDENT TO PERFORM EDUCATIONAL
29 TASKS UNDER SUPERVISION BY AN INSTRUCTOR.

30 (4) "FUND" MEANS THE EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER PURCHASE
31 MATCHING FUND.

32 (5) "PARENT TEACHER UNIT" MEANS A PARENT TEACHER
33 ASSOCIATION, PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION, OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION
34 OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS FORMED AT A SCHOOL AND RECOGNIZED BY THE
35 MAJORITY OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS AT THAT SCHOOL AS REPRESENTING THE
36 INTERESTS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS AT THAT SCHOOL.

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1 (6) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER PURCHASE
2 MATCHING FUND PROGRAM.

3 (B) (1) THERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER PURCHASE MATCHING
4 PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

5 (2) THE FUND IS ESTABLISHED TO:

6 (I) PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF
7 COMPUTERS IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS; AND

8 (II) ENCOURAGE PARENT TEACHER UNITS AT PUBLIC
9 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF EDUCATIONAL
10 COMPUTERS FOR THEIR SCHOOLS.

11 (3) THROUGH THE FUND, THE STATE SHALL SHARE IN 20% OF THE COST
12 OF PURCHASING COMPUTERS FOR ANY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE
13 STATE.

14 (C) EACH COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL:

15 (1) INFORM THE PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN
16 THE COUNTY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
17 PROGRAM; AND

18 (2) REQUIRE THE PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
19 TO INFORM THE PARENT TEACHER UNIT AT THE SCHOOL OF THE APPLICATION
20 PROCESS REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM.

21 (D) (1) EACH PARENT TEACHER UNIT THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE
22 PROGRAM SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT.

23 (2) THE APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:

24 (I) A REQUEST FOR MATCHING FUNDS;

25 (II) CERTIFICATION OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY RAISED BY THE
26 PARENT TEACHER UNIT FOR PURPOSES OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM;

27 (III) THE NAME OF THE PARENT TEACHER UNIT'S PROSPECTIVE
28 COMPUTER SUPPLIER;

29 (IV) A FINAL ESTIMATE FROM THAT SUPPLIER OF THE COST OF THE
30 COMPUTER AS QUOTED TO THE PARENT TEACHER UNIT;

31 (V) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT THE PARENT TEACHER UNIT
32 WILL PAY FOR THE COMPUTER, LESS THE STATE MATCHING FUNDS; AND

33 (VI) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

34 (E) (1) UPON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FROM A PARENT TEACHER
35 UNIT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

36 (I) STAMP EACH APPLICATION WITH THE TIME AND DATE OF ITS
37 RECEIPT; AND

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1 (II) RANK EACH APPLICATION AS TO THE TIME AND DATE OF
2 APPLICATION BY THE PARENT TEACHER UNIT.

3 (2) WHEN THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT
4 APPLICATIONS FOR MATCHING FUNDS TO EXHAUST THE FUND, BASED ON THE
5 FORMULA PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IT SHALL:

6 (I) SET ASIDE FULL MATCHING FUNDS TO THE APPLICANT
7 PARENT TEACHER UNITS THAT ARE RANKED EARLIEST UNTIL THE FUND IS
8 EXHAUSTED; AND

9 (II) IF THE FINAL RECIPIENT CANNOT BE PAID THE FULL AMOUNT
10 BECAUSE THE FUND IS ALMOST EXHAUSTED, SET ASIDE THE REMAINING
11 MATCHING FUNDS FOR THAT APPLICANT PARENT TEACHER UNIT.

12 (3) EACH RECIPIENT PARENT TEACHER UNIT SHALL QUALIFY FOR AN
13 AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS EQUAL TO 20% OF THE COSTS OF THE COMPUTER
14 PURCHASED BY THE APPLICANT PARENT TEACHER UNIT.

15 (4) THE STATE SHARE SHALL BE RELEASED TO THE COMPUTER
16 SUPPLIER DESIGNATED BY THE RECIPIENT PARENT TEACHER UNIT WHEN:

17 (I) THE RECIPIENT PARENT TEACHER UNIT CERTIFIES TO THE
18 DEPARTMENT THAT IT HAS MADE FULL PAYMENT TO THE COMPUTER SUPPLIER;
19 AND

20 (II) THE COMPUTER SUPPLIER CERTIFIES TO THE DEPARTMENT
21 THAT THE COMPUTER TO BE PURCHASED IS IN STOCK AND READY FOR DELIVERY
22 TO THE SCHOOL.

23 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR THE
24 EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND, INCLUDING A SCHEDULE OF
25 DEPARTMENT, COUNTY BOARD, AND APPLICANT DEADLINES TO:

26 (I) PROVIDE PARENT TEACHER UNITS WITH REASONABLE TIME
27 TO RAISE FUNDS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; AND

28 (II) PROVIDE FOR COMPUTER PURCHASES AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE
29 TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SCHOOL
30 YEAR THE APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED.

31 (F) AFTER PURCHASE OF THE COMPUTERS:

32 (1) THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL RECEIVING THE COMPUTER SHALL
33 REPORT TO THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT ON:

34 (I) THE FINAL COST OF THE COMPUTER IF DIFFERENT FROM
35 ESTIMATES SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION; AND

36 (II) RECEIPT AND INSTALLATION OF THE COMPUTER BY THE
37 SCHOOL;

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1 (2) THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SUMMARIZE THE
2 PRINCIPALS' REPORTS AND REPORT ON COMPUTER COST AND INSTALLATION TO
3 THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT; AND

4 (3) THE COMPUTER SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE SCHOOL IN
5 WHICH THE COMPUTER IS ORIGINALLY PLACED.

6 (G) (1) THE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE
7 AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET.

8 (2) ANY UNEXPENDED FUNDS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF
9 THE FISCAL YEAR MAY NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 1996.