
By: Delegates Marriott, C. Mitchell, McHale, Kirk, Nathan-Pulliam, Parker, Opara, Harrison, Boston, Branch, and Fulton

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 1996

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 1996

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Baltimore City~~ Public Schools Education - Educational Assistants and
3 Paraprofessional Employees

4 ~~FOR the purpose of requiring certain public school employees in Baltimore City to be~~
5 ~~licensed; requiring the State Board of Education and the Board of School~~
6 ~~Commissioners of Baltimore City to convene a certain joint commission; requiring~~
7 ~~the joint commission to develop rules and regulations concerning licensing;~~
8 ~~requiring the State Board of Education, with the advice and assistance of the~~
9 ~~Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Board of School Commissioners~~
10 ~~of Baltimore City, to develop and administer a program of instruction for~~
11 ~~individuals who want to be licensed; and generally relating to Baltimore City's~~
12 ~~public schools.~~

13 FOR the purpose of establishing a task force to study and make recommendations on the
14 licensure of educational assistants and paraprofessionals who work with children in
15 the public schools of this State; providing for the membership of the task force;
16 providing for its staffing; requiring a report by a certain date; and providing for the
17 effective date of this Act.

18 ~~BY adding to~~
19 ~~Article~~ Education
20 ~~Section 6-201(h)~~
21 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
22 ~~(1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)~~

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

1 **Article—Education**

2 ~~6-201.~~

3 ~~(H) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW,~~
4 ~~EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS AND PARAPROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES WHO WORK IN~~
5 ~~THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BALTIMORE CITY IN CLASSROOMS OR WITH STUDENTS~~
6 ~~SHALL BE LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS~~
7 ~~SUBSECTION.~~

8 ~~(2) BEFORE JULY 1, 1997, THE STATE BOARD AND THE BOARD OF~~
9 ~~SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY SHALL CONVENE A JOINT~~
10 ~~COMMISSION TO DEVELOP RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TRAINING, EXAMINING,~~
11 ~~AND LICENSING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS AND PARAPROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES~~
12 ~~UNDER THIS SUBSECTION. THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE AMONG ITS MEMBERS~~
13 ~~EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES.~~

14 ~~(3) WHEN ISSUING LICENSES, THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER~~
15 ~~PRIOR INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICE AND PRIOR EMPLOYMENT AS AN EDUCATIONAL~~
16 ~~ASSISTANT OR A PARAPROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL~~
17 ~~COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1995.~~

18 ~~(4) BEFORE JULY 1, 1999, THE STATE BOARD, WITH THE ADVICE AND~~
19 ~~ASSISTANCE OF THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION AND THE~~
20 ~~BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY, SHALL DEVELOP AND~~
21 ~~ADMINISTER A PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR INDIVIDUALS TO BE LICENSED~~
22 ~~UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.~~

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That:

25 (a) There is a Task Force on Educational Assistants and Paraprofessionals in the
26 Public Schools of Maryland.

27 (b) The Task Force shall review the present utilization of educational assistants
28 and paraprofessionals by the county boards of education and make recommendations on:

29 (1) Entry level standards for educational assistants and paraprofessionals;

30 (2) Training and experience to be required of educational assistants and
31 paraprofessionals;

32 (3) The development of examinations for entry into educational and
33 paraprofessional careers;

34 (4) The licensing of educational assistants and paraprofessionals;

35 (5) Career ladders that educational assistants and paraprofessionals can
36 anticipate following; and

37 (6) Other matters that the Task Force considers of significance.

38 (c) The Task Force shall be composed of 23 members as follows:

1 (1) Two Senators appointed by the President of the Senate of Maryland;

2 (2) Two Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

3 (3) Two teachers appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

4 (4) Eight educational assistants/paraprofessionals appointed by the State
5 Superintendent of Schools chosen from lists of nominees provided by statewide
6 organizations representing educational assistants/paraprofessionals for collective
7 bargaining purposes in proportion to the membership of each organization;

8 (5) One member appointed by the Maryland Association of Boards of
9 Education;

10 (6) One member appointed by the Public School Superintendents
11 Association of Maryland;

12 (7) One member appointed by the Maryland Congress of Parents and
13 Teachers, Inc.;

14 (8) One member from the State Department of Education's Division of
15 Certification and Accreditation appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

16 (9) One member from the State Department of Education's Division of
17 Instruction and Staff Development appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

18 (10) One member who is a county special education administrator appointed
19 by the State Superintendent of Schools;

20 (11) One member appointed by the State Secretary of Higher Education;

21 (12) One member appointed by the Maryland Association of Community
22 Colleges; and

23 (13) A chairman appointed by the Governor.

24 (d) The Maryland State Department of Education shall provide staff support to
25 the Task Force.

26 (e) The Task Force shall report its recommendations to the Governor and, subject
27 to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly by December 15,
28 1996.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 ~~October 1~~ June 1, 1996.

