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**By: Senator Van Hollen**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Educational Standards Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to establish a program of  
4 tests for certain public school students; specifying the subject areas of the tests;  
5 establishing rules for administering the tests; requiring certain students to pass  
6 certain tests; providing for certain exemptions; abolishing certain tests; requiring  
7 the State Board to report certain scores to certain students and school districts;  
8 providing for additional instruction; requiring the State Board to implement a  
9 program to recognize certain students; requiring a certain report; and generally  
10 relating to the evaluation of students.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Education  
13 Section 7-207 and 7-208  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Education**

19 7-207.

20 (A) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF TESTS TO  
21 DETERMINE WHETHER STUDENTS HAVE MASTERED THE ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE  
22 AND SKILLS THAT THE STATE BOARD FINDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES MUST  
23 ACHIEVE.

24 (B) THE TESTS SHALL MEASURE COMPETENCY IN:

25 (1) ENGLISH;

26 (2) MATHEMATICS; AND

27 (3) ANY OTHER SUBJECT AREA THAT THE STATE BOARD DETERMINES  
28 IS NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESS OF STUDENTS.

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1 (C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, THE TESTS SHALL BE  
2 ADMINISTERED TO ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

3 (2) THE STATE BOARD MAY EXEMPT A SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT  
4 FROM THE TESTS.

5 (D) (1) BEGINNING NO LATER THAN 2002, A STUDENT SHALL PASS TESTS  
6 ADMINISTERED UNDER THIS SECTION BEFORE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

7 (2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE SCORE THAT A STUDENT  
8 MUST ACHIEVE ON EACH TEST TO GRADUATE.

9 (E) NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE STATE BOARD REQUIRES A  
10 STUDENT TO PASS A TEST IN A SPECIFIC SUBJECT AREA FOR GRADUATION, THE  
11 STATE BOARD SHALL ABOLISH THE EXISTING FUNCTIONAL TEST IN THAT SUBJECT  
12 AREA.

13 7-208.

14 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "TEST" MEANS A TEST ADMINISTERED IN THE  
15 MARYLAND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL  
16 STUDENT.

17 (B) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 1996, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADVISE EACH  
18 STUDENT AND EACH STUDENT'S SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE SCORE THE STUDENT  
19 ACHIEVED ON EACH TEST.

20 (C) EACH YEAR THE STATE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE PASSING SCORE  
21 ON EACH TEST.

22 (D) BEGINNING IN AUGUST 1997:

23 (1) IF A STUDENT DOES NOT PASS A TEST, THE STUDENT SHALL TAKE  
24 ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION UNTIL THE STUDENT PASSES THE TEST.

25 (2) EACH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL  
26 INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING SATURDAY CLASSES, SUMMER SCHOOL, OR TUTORIAL  
27 PROGRAMS, FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT PASSED A TEST.

28 (E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO  
29 RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVE HIGH TEST SCORES.

30 (F) THE STATE BOARD MAY EXEMPT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS FROM  
31 THIS SECTION.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of  
33 Education shall study the advisability of a high school diploma that indicates whether a  
34 student has achieved test scores under § 7-207 of the Education Article of the Annotated  
35 Code of Maryland substantially above the scores required for graduation. No later than  
36 December 1, 1996, the State Board shall report on this study to the General Assembly.  
37 The report shall include recommendations concerning incentives to encourage students to  
38 achieve high test scores, including scholarships, admission to State institutions of higher  
39 learning, and economic incentives developed with the private sector.

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1           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 1996.