
By: Senator Dyson

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 1996

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Economic and Environmental Affairs, March 1, 1996

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 1996

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Course Requirements in the Public Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the State Board of Education or a countyboard of
4 education in the State from requiring a student to enroll in certaincourses that
5 ~~contain~~ are based on subject matter that is in conflict with the bona fide religious
6 beliefs and practices of the student or the parent or guardian of the student; and
7 requiring the parent or guardian of a student who is a minor child or a student who
8 has reached the age of majority to submit certain matters in writing.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article - Education
11 Section 7-204(a) and (b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article - Education
16 Section 7-204(c)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

2

1 **Article - Education**

2 7-204.

3 (a) The promotion of students in a public school and graduation from a public
4 high school shall be in accordance with:

5 (1) Policies established by the county board; and

6 (2) The rules and regulations of the State Board.

7 (b) (1) Each student who graduates from a public high school shall receive the
8 same type of diploma or certificate, regardless of the high school attended or the course
9 taken.

10 (2) The diploma or certificate shall state that the student has completed a
11 program of studies satisfactorily in accordance with the requirements of the State Board.

12 (C) (1) THE STATE BOARD OR A COUNTY BOARD MAY NOT REQUIRE A
13 STUDENT TO ENROLL IN A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION THAT ~~CONTAINS~~ IS BASED ON
14 SUBJECT MATTER ~~CONCERNING THEORIES OF DISEASE OR MEDICAL PRACTICES~~
15 ~~THAT ARE IN CONFLICT~~ THAT CONFLICTS WITH THE BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS
16 AND PRACTICES OF THE STUDENT OR THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT.

17 (2) IN ORDER FOR A STUDENT TO BE EXCUSED FROM PARTICIPATION
18 IN A CLASS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, A PARENT OR GUARDIAN, IF THE STUDENT IS
19 A MINOR CHILD, OR THE STUDENT, IF THE STUDENT IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE,
20 SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL THAT
21 THE STUDENT ATTENDS ASSERTING THE OBJECTION TO THE COURSE AND THE
22 REASON FOR THE OBJECTION.

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