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By: Delegates Leopold and Heller
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1997
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Primary and Secondary Education - New Targeted Poverty Grant Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a New Targeted Poverty Grant Program; providing for
4   grants to the counties and Baltimore City for students living in poverty; requiring
5   the grants to be used for certain purposes; requiring a school board that receives a
6   grant to make a certain accounting; authorizing the Governor to fund the grants
7   from certain sources in a certain fiscal year; providing for the termination of this
8   Act; and generally relating to targeted grants for students living in poverty.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10   Article - Education
11   Section 5-207
12   Annotated Code of Maryland
13   (1997 Replacement Volume)

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

16   **Article - Education**

17 5-207.

18   (a) In this section, "student living in poverty" means a student who qualifies for a
19 free or reduced price lunch.

20   (B) THERE IS A NEW TARGETED POVERTY GRANT PROGRAM.

21   [(b) The targeted poverty grants shall be distributed as follows:

22   (1) County boards shall submit to the State Board comprehensive plans for
23 specific schools to improve educational achievement for students living in poverty.

24   (2) Upon approval by the State Board of a county's plans under paragraph
25 (1) of this subsection, a county board shall receive a share of the funds available for
26 targeted poverty grants that is proportional to its share of the statewide number of
27 students living in poverty for the school year prior to the fiscal year for which the
28 appropriation is provided.

1   (3) Grants to individual schools may not exceed $1,500 for each student
2 living in poverty attending the school receiving the grant.

3   (4) In selecting the schools, the county board shall give priority to schools
4 with the highest concentration of students living in poverty.]

5   (c) Grants made under this [appropriation] PROGRAM may not be used to
6 supplant existing funding for compensatory education programs, as defined in § 5-202(e)
7 of this subtitle.

8   [(d) For Fiscal Year 1996 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall
9 include in the State budget at least $8,000,000 for targeted poverty grants under this
10 subsection.]

11   (D) GRANTS SHALL BE MADE UNDER THIS SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

12   (1) A COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE $411 PER STUDENT LIVING IN POVERTY
13 IF MORE THAN 70% OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
14 ARE STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY;

15   (2) A COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE $136 PER STUDENT LIVING IN POVERTY
16 IF MORE THAN 40% BUT NOT MORE THAN 70% OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE
17 COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM ARE STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY; AND

18   (3) A COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE $45 PER STUDENT LIVING IN POVERTY IF
19 40% OR LESS OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM ARE
20 STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY.

21   (E) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS LIVING IN
22 POVERTY IN A COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL BE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS
23 LIVING IN POVERTY IN THE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM DURING THE SECOND
24 PRECEDING SCHOOL YEAR AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

25   (F) A GRANT MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO:

26   (1) IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND ACADEMIC
27 ACHIEVEMENT OF SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY;

28   (2) IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOLS
29 WITH STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY;

30   (3) IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND ACADEMIC
31 ACHIEVEMENT OF RECONSTITUTION ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS AND OTHER SCHOOLS
32 THAT ARE BOTH FAILING TO MEET MARYLAND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM
33 STANDARDS AND FAILING TO SHOW PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THOSE
34 STANDARDS; AND

35   (4) IMPLEMENT OTHER IMPROVEMENTS THAT DIRECTLY SUPPORT
36 IMPROVED CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS,
37 INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT.

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1   (G) EACH COUNTY BOARD THAT RECEIVES A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION
2 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE BOARD'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN AND REPORT AN
3 ACCOUNTING OF:

4   (1) HOW THE GRANT MONEY WAS SPENT; AND

5   (2) PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD ACHIEVING THE
6 PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE MONEY WAS GRANTED.

7   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for Fiscal Year 1998, the
8 Governor may fund the grants under this Act from the following sources:

9   (1) the $30 million in additional funds for the Baltimore City Public Schools
10 that is appropriated in accordance with the consent decrees entered in the cases
11 "Bradford, et al v. Maryland State Board of Education, et al", case no.
12 94340058/CE189672, "Board of School Commissioners, et al v. Maryland State Board of
13 Education, et al", case no. 9528055/CL2002151, Baltimore City Circuit Court, and
14 "Vaughn G., et al v. Mayor and City Council, et al", case no. MJG-84-1911, United
15 States District Court for the District of Maryland;

16   (2) the $8 million allocated for targeted poverty grants under § 5-207 of the
17 Education Article;

18   (3) the $1.6 million additional poverty grant included in the Fiscal Year
19 1988 budget; and

20   (4) the $5,621,040 additional grant to compensate for declining enrollment
21 under the Baltimore City partnership funding.

22   SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
23 shall renew funding under this Act for additional Fiscal Years if the General Assembly is
24 satisfied that demonstrable progress has been made by the county school systems toward
25 achieving the purposes for which grant money is required to be used under § 5-207(f) of
26 the Education Article.

27   SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 July 1, 1997. It shall remain in effect for 1 year, and at the end of June 30, 1998, with no
29 further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no
30 further force and effect.