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**By: Delegates Cadden, Perry, Morgan, Greenip, Love, and Kopp Kopp, and O'Donnell**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 1997

Assigned to: Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 23, 1997

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Maryland Adult External High School Program - Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~State Department of Education to maintain the~~  
 4 ~~funding of the Maryland Adult External High School Program at a certain level for~~  
 5 ~~a certain time period~~ Governor to include minimum amounts of funds in the annual  
 6 budget bill for the Maryland Adult External High School Program; clarifying the  
 7 establishment and requirements of, as well as the recognition of the need for, the  
 8 Maryland Adult External High School Program; requiring the State Board of  
 9 Education to evaluate the Program and submit a certain report to the General  
 10 Assembly before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
 11 generally relating to adult education in the State.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article - Education

14 Section 1-101(f) and (l)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1997 Replacement Volume)

17 BY adding to

18 Article - Education

19 Section 7-205.1

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (1997 Replacement Volume)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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1 **Article - Education**

2 1-101.

3 (f) "Department" means the State Department of Education.

4 (l) "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

5 7-205.1.

6 (A) ~~THERE IS A~~ IN THIS SECTION, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND ADULT  
7 EXTERNAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM ESTABLISHED FOR THE CITIZENS OF  
8 MARYLAND UNDER REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD.

9 (B) ACCORDING TO THESE REGULATIONS:

10 (1) THE STATE BOARD RECOGNIZES DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCIES  
11 IN ADULTS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THESE COMPETENCIES WERE ACQUIRED IN  
12 A FORMAL SCHOOL SETTING; AND

13 (2) IN RESPONSE TO THIS RECOGNITION OF COMPETENCIES, THE  
14 DEPARTMENT PROVIDES ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF  
15 OBTAINING A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

16 (C) (1) BECAUSE THE PROGRAM IS A VALUABLE SERVICE THAT IS  
17 PROVIDED TO THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND, AT LEAST THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2003,  
18 FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM IN THE BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE AT A  
19 MINIMUM EQUAL TO THE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1997  
20 BUDGET. FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 1998 THROUGH 2001 THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
21 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
22 INCLUDING ANY PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET, A GENERAL FUND  
23 APPROPRIATION FOR THE MARYLAND EXTERNAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM IN AN  
24 AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN THE AMOUNT OF THE GOVERNOR'S GENERAL FUND  
25 APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR 1996.

26 (2) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 1998 THROUGH 2001 THE GOVERNOR  
27 SHALL INCLUDE FEDERAL FUNDS, TO THE EXTENT AVAILABLE, FOR THE PROGRAM  
28 IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN THE AMOUNT OF THE GOVERNOR'S FEDERAL FUND  
29 APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR 1996.

30 (D) DURING FISCAL YEAR ~~2003~~ 2001, IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS  
31 OF THE PROGRAM, THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF THE  
32 PROGRAM.

33 (E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR  
34 BEFORE DECEMBER 31, ~~2003~~ 2000, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1312 OF THE STATE  
35 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM.

36 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for Fiscal Year 1998 only,  
37 the Governor may provide the required General Fund appropriation by transfer of excess  
38 funds in the contingent fund or other appropriations by approved budget amendment or  
39 by deficiency appropriation.

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1           ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~  
2 ~~July 1, 1997.~~

3           ~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~  
4 ~~June 1, 1997. It shall remain effective until June 30, 2001, and, at the end of June 30,~~  
5 ~~2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be~~  
6 ~~abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~