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**By: Senators McFadden and Blount**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Obtaining a High School Diploma by Examination**

3 FOR the purpose of broadening the authority of the State Board of Education to exempt  
4 certain students from a certain requirement relating to obtaining a high school  
5 diploma by examination.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Education  
8 Section 7-206  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1997 Replacement Volume)

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

13 **Article - Education**

14 7-206.

15 (a) An individual may obtain a high school diploma by examination as provided in  
16 this section if the individual:

17 (1) Has not obtained a high school certificate or diploma;

18 (2) Has resided in this State or on a federal reservation in this State for at  
19 least 3 months, except that the State Board may waive this residence requirement if the  
20 State Board considers the waiver justified;

21 (3) Is 16 years old or older; and

22 (4) Has withdrawn from a regular full-time public or private school program  
23 for at least 3 months, except that the State Board may waive the 3-month withdrawal  
24 requirement [for a student enrolled in the Paquin School in Baltimore City] if the State  
25 Board considers the waiver justified.

26 (b) The State Board shall examine individuals for a high school diploma at least  
27 twice each year at places throughout this State that are reasonably convenient for the  
28 applicants.

29 (c) The examination shall:

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1 (1) Be offered in appropriate high school subject areas; and

2 (2) Be of a comprehensive nature as determined by the State Board.

3 (d) An individual who fails an examination may take retests.

4 (e) A member of the armed forces may earn the Maryland high school diploma by  
5 taking the examinations furnished by the United States Armed Forces Institute and given  
6 by the appropriate service officer.

7 (f) The diploma shall be awarded in accordance with the rules and regulations  
8 adopted by the State Board.

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