

HOUSE BILL 209

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1998 Regular Session
8lr6125

By: **Chairman, Ways and Means Committee (Departmental - Education)**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 1998

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Aid for Public Education - Schools for Success - Extension of Sunset**

3 FOR the purpose of extending the termination of certain provisions relating to
4 challenge grants for school improvement; and generally relating to State aid for
5 public education.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Education
8 Section 5-204
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Chapter 210 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1992, as amended by
13 Chapter 349 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995
14 Section 2

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

17 **Article - Education**

18 5-204.

19 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) "Challenge grants" means funds distributed by the Department for
21 use in accountability of low-performing schools for school improvement based upon
22 Schools for Success goals.

23 (3) "Data-based areas" means those areas identified by the Department
24 for which information is to be tracked for each school, each school system, and the
25 State related to the 10 Schools for Success goals.

1 (4) "Maryland School Performance Program" means an outcome based
2 education accountability program that concentrates on accountability through school
3 improvement in the public schools.

4 (b) (1) There may be a School Improvement Research Project administered
5 and directed by the Department.

6 (2) A Schools for Success Fund may be established for challenge grants to
7 implement school improvement.

8 (3) The Department, with the concurrence of county boards, shall select
9 the public schools to receive challenge grants. The recipient schools shall have the
10 following characteristics, as applicable, derived from data-based information:

11 (i) Low percentage of average daily attendance;

12 (ii) High percentage of dropouts;

13 (iii) Low percentage of students passing the Maryland Functional
14 Tests on the first administration;

15 (iv) Poor performance on the criterion referenced tests; and

16 (v) Other mutually acceptable factors.

17 (4) Any challenge grant funds provided under this section shall be used
18 to effect systemic changes in the recipient schools, including interagency activities,
19 computer labs, salary incentive programs, staffing, total quality management, and
20 other purposes approved by the Department.

21 (5) Each public school that is a recipient of a challenge grant shall have
22 a school improvement team constituted according to guidelines established by the
23 Department.

24 (6) [In Fiscal Year 1993, each] EACH school improvement team shall
25 establish outcomes, measures for the outcomes, and timelines for its school to show
26 improvement in the data-based areas in accordance with guidelines established by
27 the Department. [Full implementation of changes to the instructional program shall
28 occur in Fiscal Year 1994.]

29 (7) Selection of school administrative leadership shall be a decision by
30 the local school superintendent with the concurrence of the State Superintendent.

31 (8) Nothing in this section shall require that any particular school
32 system be required to accept a grant from or otherwise participate in the Schools for
33 Success Challenge Grant Program.

34 (c) The Department shall collect and, in accordance with § 2-1218 of the State
35 Government Article, report to the General Assembly by [October 1, 1995] JANUARY
36 15, 2002 a final accountability report on each school that receives a challenge grant,

1 with interim annual reports submitted by [December 31 of 1992, 1993, and 1994]
2 JANUARY 15 OF 1999, 2000, AND 2001 based upon progress toward outcome attainment.

3 **Chapter 210 of the Acts of 1992, as amended by Chapter 349 of the Acts of**
4 **1995**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
6 effect July 1, 1992. It shall be effective for a period of [6] 9 years and, at the end of
7 June 30, [1998] 2001 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
8 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
10 effect June 1, 1998.