

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

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 1998

CHAPTER _____

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (i) Low percentage of average daily attendance;

18 (ii) High percentage of dropouts;

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

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

22 (v) Other mutually acceptable factors.

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

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

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

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

