
By: **Delegates Jacobs, Greenip, Holt, Schade, Kach, Kittleman, Walkup, M. Burns, Stocksdale, Redmer, Baldwin, Snodgrass, Hutchins, Ports, Elliott, Klima, Flanagan, McKee, Stull, Beck, Getty, and Brinkley**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 1998

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Reading Programs - Phonics Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring public elementary schools to use phonics as the primary
4 method of teaching reading; and generally relating to reading programs in
5 public elementary schools.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Education
8 Section 7-202
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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 7-202.

15 (a) The State Board shall require a minimum level of reading ability for each
16 grade 2 through 12 that rises for each succeeding grade.

17 (B) EACH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM ESTABLISHED TO TEACH
18 CHILDREN TO READ SHALL USE PHONICS AS THE PRIMARY METHOD OF READING
19 INSTRUCTION.

20 [(b)] (C) If a county board, based on local assessment of student progress and
21 in conjunction with the Maryland education accountability program, finds that a
22 student in grade 3, 7, or 9 through 11 who is not moderately, severely, or profoundly
23 intellectually limited has not met either a minimum grade level competency or the
24 minimum reading level as required by the State Board for the previous grade, the
25 student shall be:

26 (1) Kept in the current grade; or

1 (2) Enrolled in an appropriate reading assistance program as part of his
2 instructional program.

3 [(c)] (D) The provisions of this section may not be the sole reason for
4 withholding grade advancement more than once in grades 2 through 7.

5 [(d)] (E) The State Board shall adopt bylaws to implement this section.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 July 1, 1998.