
By: **Delegates Kagan, Gordon, and Barve**
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 1998
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Character Awareness Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Character Awareness Program in the State
4 Department of Education; requiring the designation of a coordinator for the
5 Program; requiring the Department to provide certain assistance and make
6 certain grants under the Program; requiring the Governor to include certain
7 money in the annual budget; providing for the termination of this Act; and
8 generally relating to the Character Awareness Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Education
11 Section 2-104
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article - Education
16 Section 5-212
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Education**

22 2-104.

23 (a) The following professional assistants shall be appointed to the
24 Department:

- 25 (1) No more than two Deputy State Superintendents of Schools;
- 26 (2) Any assistant State superintendents and directors authorized by the
27 State Board and provided in the State budget; and

1 (3) Any other professional assistants and agents authorized by the State
2 Board and provided in the State budget.

3 (b) (1) From the nominees proposed by the State Superintendent, the State
4 Board shall appoint all professional assistants to the Department, who shall be in the
5 executive service, management service, or special appointments in the State
6 Personnel Management System.

7 (2) With the advice of the State Superintendent, the State Board shall
8 set the qualifications for each professional position.

9 (3) The State Superintendent may transfer professional assistants
10 within the Department as necessary.

11 (c) (1) All professional assistants, grade 31 and above, shall serve at the
12 pleasure of the State Board and the State Superintendent.

13 (2) All other professional assistants shall be removed in accordance with
14 procedures set by the State Board.

15 (d) (1) In addition to the other duties specified in this section, each
16 professional assistant to the Department has the duties assigned to him by the State
17 Superintendent.

18 (2) The Deputy State Superintendent designated by the State
19 Superintendent or by the State Board is the acting State Superintendent when the
20 State Superintendent is absent or disabled.

21 (3) Assistant State superintendents and directors have charge of the
22 various divisions of the Department.

23 (E) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL APPOINT A STATEWIDE COORDINATOR OF
24 THE CHARACTER AWARENESS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN § 5-212 OF THIS ARTICLE.

25 (2) THE STATEWIDE COORDINATOR SHALL BE A PROFESSIONAL
26 ASSISTANT SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION.

27 5-212.

28 (A) THERE IS A CHARACTER AWARENESS PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL AND
29 COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

30 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST LOCAL BOARDS AND
31 INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN INCORPORATING
32 INTO SCHOOL CURRICULA METHODS FOR DEVELOPING IN STUDENTS THE
33 FOLLOWING CHARACTER TRAITS:

34 (1) RESPONSIBILITY;

35 (2) RESPECT;

- 1 (3) CARING;
- 2 (4) FAIRNESS;
- 3 (5) TRUSTWORTHINESS; AND
- 4 (6) CITIZENSHIP.

5 (C)(1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS FOR SMALL-SCALE PILOT
6 AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR INCORPORATING CHARACTER BUILDING INTO
7 SCHOOL CURRICULA.

8 (2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE
9 DEPARTMENT AT LEAST \$50,000 FOR GRANTS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
10 SUBSECTION.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 July 1, 1998. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June
13 30, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
14 abrogated and of no further force and effect.