
By: **Delegate Shriver**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Career Connections Sustainability Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Career Connections Sustainability Fund;
4 requiring the Governor to include certain amounts in the State budget for the
5 Fund; requiring the Department of Education to administer the Fund in
6 consultation with a certain entity; providing for a certain distribution of the
7 Fund; requiring the Department to prepare a certain report; requiring the
8 Department to adopt regulations to implement this Act; defining certain terms;
9 and generally relating to the Career Connections Sustainability Fund.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Education

12 Section 5-212

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

15 **Preamble**

16 WHEREAS, The State has begun implementing a federally funded initiative,
17 known as Career Connections, to support school improvement, workforce
18 development, and economic development across the State; and

19 WHEREAS, Educators, in partnership with community and business leaders,
20 implement strategies designed to increase student achievement and prepare students
21 for success by designing challenging programs of study in nine broad career paths
22 that support the strategic economic goals of the State; and

23 WHEREAS, Career Connections has five goals to serve all students in the State,
24 including: improving student performance by including career awareness,
25 exploration, and guidance throughout the curriculum; improving school achievement
26 and lowering dropout rates by making education more relevant for all students;
27 improving the preparation of students to plan for and make a successful transition to
28 career and continued education; understanding the vital role that education and
29 lifelong learning play in a successful career; and infusing employer input and
30 expertise into the educational experience so that all students benefit from real work

1 experiences and employers benefit from the development of a more capable workforce;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Career Connections offers students opportunities to explore
4 different career and continuing education paths, obtain valuable knowledge of career
5 choices and their skill and education requirements, be exposed to career counseling
6 and assistance in developing employment or educational plans, and learn and apply
7 academics in classrooms and workplaces; and

8 WHEREAS, Career Connections offers employers access to a well prepared
9 workforce that has attained high academic achievement and work experience,
10 involvement in the development of curriculum, lower costs for employee training and
11 recruiting, and opportunities to raise the quality of life in the community; and

12 WHEREAS, Career Connections offers educators increased graduation, college
13 placement, and employment rates for students, opportunities for professional
14 development, technical assistance, training, and support, a more exciting and
15 relevant curriculum for students, and a curriculum designed to blend academic and
16 career education; and

17 WHEREAS, Career Connections offers parents the knowledge that their
18 children are better prepared for their next educational level and for career
19 opportunities, are more motivated students, are more likely to stay in school and
20 achieve economic independence, and are more likely to graduate with a sense of
21 purpose and direction; and

22 WHEREAS, To increase its ability to meet local economic, workforce, and
23 educational demands, Career Connections has been implemented through the State
24 Management Team and 12 Local Labor Market Teams in Maryland; and

25 WHEREAS, The long term viability of Career Connections requires limited
26 State and private sustainability capital; now, therefore,

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

29 **Article - Education**

30 5-212.

31 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
32 INDICATED.

33 (2) "CAREER CONNECTIONS" MEANS THE STATE'S ESTABLISHED
34 SECONDARY AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL REFORM, WORKFORCE
35 PREPARATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

36 (3) "FUND" MEANS THE CAREER CONNECTIONS SUSTAINABILITY FUND.

1 (4) "LOCAL LABOR MARKET TEAM" MEANS ONE OF THE 12 ESTABLISHED
2 ORGANIZATIONS COMPOSED OF EMPLOYERS, EDUCATORS, AND LABOR AND
3 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES THAT DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, SUSTAIN, AND
4 ENHANCE LOCAL CAREER CONNECTIONS PROGRAMS.

5 (5) "STATE MANAGEMENT TEAM" MEANS THE ESTABLISHED STATE
6 ENTITY THAT REPRESENTS RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES, EDUCATORS, BUSINESS
7 LEADERS, ORGANIZED LABOR, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT,
8 SUSTAIN, AND ENHANCE STATEWIDE CAREER CONNECTIONS PROGRAMS.

9 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE CAREER
10 CONNECTIONS PROGRAMS INVOLVING EDUCATORS, EMPLOYERS, STUDENTS, AND
11 OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR FUTURE CAREER AND
12 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

13 (C) THERE IS A CAREER CONNECTIONS SUSTAINABILITY FUND.

14 (D) THE FUND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN
15 CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE MANAGEMENT TEAM.

16 (E) THE FUND SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY AS FOLLOWS:

17 (1) 10 PERCENT OF THE FUND SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE
18 STATE MANAGEMENT TEAM TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, SUSTAIN, AND ENHANCE
19 STATEWIDE PROGRAMS, SUCH AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CURRICULUM
20 DEVELOPMENT, BLENDED INSTRUCTION, AND WORK BASED LEARNING
21 EXPERIENCES; AND

22 (2) 90 PERCENT OF THE FUND SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED, USING THE
23 STATE'S BASIC CURRENT EXPENSE FORMULA UNDER § 5-202 OF THIS ARTICLE, TO
24 THE 12 LOCAL LABOR MARKET TEAMS TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, SUSTAIN, AND
25 ENHANCE LOCAL CAREER CONNECTION PROGRAMS.

26 (F) A LOCAL LABOR MARKET TEAM SHALL MATCH 200 PERCENT OF THE
27 DISTRIBUTION UNDER SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION BY RAISING PUBLIC AND
28 PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MAY BE IN THE FORM OF MONEY, NONMONETARY
29 CONTRIBUTIONS, OR EMPLOYEE WAGES FOR A WORK BASED LEARNING
30 EXPERIENCE.

31 (G) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2005, THE GOVERNOR
32 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE CAREER CONNECTIONS
33 SUSTAINABILITY FUND:

34 (1) \$2,500,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001; AND

35 (2) \$4,500,000 FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR FROM 2002 THROUGH 2005.

36 (H) THE DEPARTMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
37 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY JULY 1 OF

1 EACH FISCAL YEAR FROM FISCAL YEAR 2002 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2006 ON THE
2 IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE OF THE FUND.

3 (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
4 SECTION.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 July 1, 1999.