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By: **Delegates K. Kelly, Taylor, Edwards, Donoghue, Shank, McKee, and Hecht**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties - Interactive Teleconference**  
3 **Sites - Pilot Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a pilot program to build interactive teleconference  
5 sites in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties; stating the purpose of the  
6 program; requiring certain county boards of education to develop and submit to  
7 the State Superintendent of Schools for approval a certain plan; requiring the  
8 State Superintendent to select plans for approval based on certain criteria;  
9 requiring the State Superintendent to award certain grants under certain  
10 circumstances; requiring the Governor to include certain funds in the State  
11 budget for a certain purpose; and generally relating to a pilot program to build  
12 interactive teleconference sites in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article - Education  
15 Section 7-904 and 7-905  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1999 Replacement Volume)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article - Education  
20 Section 7-907.1  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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

25 **Article - Education**

26 7-904.

27 (A) The State Superintendent may:

1 (1) Support development of curriculum-based learning resources using  
2 state-of-the-art technologies and techniques designed to increase the achievement  
3 levels of all students in all subject areas;

4 (2) Support development of long-term comprehensive instructional  
5 programming and associated support resources that ensure maximum access by all  
6 educational institutions; and

7 (3) Award grants to eligible private or public consortia to enable eligible  
8 consortia to develop state-of-the-art technology-enhanced instructional systems for  
9 use in the classroom, including:

10 (i) The development, production, and distribution of instructional  
11 programming for students;

12 (ii) Staff development programming for teachers; and

13 (iii) Incorporation of creative state-of-the-art applications of  
14 technology-enhanced learning resources, such as:

15 1. Computer software;

16 2. Databases;

17 3. Films;

18 4. Transparencies;

19 5. Multimedia video and audio discs;

20 6. Telecommunications;

21 7. Educational television; and

22 8. Print resources.

23 (B) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SUPPORT, AND AWARD GRANTS FOR,  
24 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM TO BUILD AN INTERACTIVE  
25 TELECONFERENCE SITE IN EACH OF ALLEGANY, GARRETT, AND WASHINGTON  
26 COUNTIES UNDER § 7-907.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 7-905.

28 In awarding grants under [§ 7-904] § 7-904(A) of this subtitle, the State  
29 Superintendent shall give priority to applications describing programs or systems  
30 that are developed:

31 (1) For statewide application at a reasonable cost;

32 (2) In consultation with classroom teachers; and

1 (3) Through consultation and collaboration with appropriate educational  
2 entities to ensure relevance to State curriculum frameworks.

3 7-907.1.

4 (A) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNTY  
5 BOARDS OF EDUCATION OF ALLEGANY, GARRETT, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES,  
6 SHALL IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM TO BUILD AN INTERACTIVE  
7 TELECONFERENCE SITE IN EACH OF THESE COUNTIES.

8 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

9 (1) FACILITATE TEACHER PARTICIPATION FROM THE THREE COUNTIES  
10 IN EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS, BRIEFINGS, MEETINGS, AND CONFERENCES HELD BY  
11 THE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE BOARD, AND OTHER EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS;

12 (2) PROVIDE A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL MEDIUM FOR STUDENTS IN  
13 THESE THREE COUNTIES;

14 (3) REDUCE THE COSTS TO THE THREE COUNTY BOARDS OF PAYING  
15 FOR:

16 (I) LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS  
17 FOR A TEACHER TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR, BRIEFING, MEETING, OR  
18 CONFERENCE; AND

19 (II) SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS TO REPLACE TEACHERS WHO TRAVEL  
20 LONG DISTANCES TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR, BRIEFING, MEETING, OR  
21 CONFERENCE;

22 (4) ENCOURAGE TEACHERS IN THE THREE COUNTIES TO PARTICIPATE  
23 IN SEMINARS, BRIEFINGS, MEETINGS, AND CONFERENCES;

24 (5) PROMOTE THE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF FACULTY TIME; AND

25 (6) ELIMINATE WEATHER, TRAFFIC, AND SAFETY CONCERNS IMPLICIT  
26 IN LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL.

27 (C) (1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PILOT  
28 PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION.

29 (2) EACH COUNTY BOARD OF ALLEGANY, GARRETT, AND WASHINGTON  
30 COUNTIES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, SHALL DEVELOP  
31 A PLAN TO BUILD AN INTERACTIVE TELECONFERENCE SITE.

32 (3) EACH COUNTY BOARD OF THE THREE COUNTIES SHALL SUBMIT THE  
33 PLAN TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR APPROVAL.

34 (4) IN SELECTING A PLAN FOR APPROVAL, THE STATE  
35 SUPERINTENDENT SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO PLANS THAT:

1 (I) FACILITATE PARTICIPATION BY TEACHERS FROM THE THREE  
2 COUNTIES IN EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS, BRIEFINGS, MEETINGS, AND CONFERENCES  
3 HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE BOARD, AND OTHER EDUCATION  
4 ORGANIZATIONS;

5 (II) PROVIDE A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL MEDIUM FOR STUDENTS IN  
6 THESE THREE COUNTIES;

7 (III) INCLUDE REASONABLE COSTS; AND

8 (IV) PROMOTE CONTINUITY IN CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION BY  
9 REDUCING TEACHER ABSENCES.

10 (5) ON APPROVAL, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL AWARD A  
11 GRANT TO A COUNTY BOARD TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN.

12 (D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 AND EACH SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR, THE  
13 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET FUNDS FOR THE STATE  
14 SUPERINTENDENT TO AWARD GRANTS TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
15 SECTION.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 July 1, 2000.