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By: **Delegates Zirkin and Minnick**  
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2000  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore County - Education - Wireless Communications Technology -**  
3 **Pilot Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a pilot program to implement wireless  
5 communications technology in certain Baltimore County schools; stating the  
6 purpose of the pilot program; requiring the Baltimore County Board of  
7 Education to develop and submit a certain plan to the State Superintendent of  
8 Schools for approval; requiring the State Superintendent to select a plan for  
9 approval based on certain criteria; requiring the State Superintendent to award  
10 a certain grant under certain circumstances; requiring the Governor to include  
11 certain funds in the State budget for a certain purpose; requiring the county  
12 board to submit a certain report; and generally relating to a pilot program to  
13 implement wireless communications technology in certain Baltimore County  
14 schools.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article - Education  
17 Section 7-904 and 7-905  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1999 Replacement Volume)

20 BY adding to  
21 Article - Education  
22 Section 7-907.1  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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

1 **Article - Education**

2 7-904.

3 (A) The State Superintendent may:

4 (1) Support development of curriculum-based learning resources using  
5 state-of-the-art technologies and techniques designed to increase the achievement  
6 levels of all students in all subject areas;7 (2) Support development of long-term comprehensive instructional  
8 programming and associated support resources that ensure maximum access by all  
9 educational institutions; and10 (3) Award grants to eligible private or public consortia to enable eligible  
11 consortia to develop state-of-the-art technology-enhanced instructional systems for  
12 use in the classroom, including:13 (i) The development, production, and distribution of instructional  
14 programming for students;

15 (ii) Staff development programming for teachers; and

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

18 1. Computer software;

19 2. Databases;

20 3. Films;

21 4. Transparencies;

22 5. Multimedia video and audio discs;

23 6. Telecommunications;

24 7. Educational television; and

25 8. Print resources.

26 (B) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SUPPORT AND AWARD A GRANT FOR  
27 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT WIRELESS  
28 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY UNDER § 9-701.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

29 7-905.

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

- 1 (1) For statewide application at a reasonable cost;
- 2 (2) In consultation with classroom teachers; and
- 3 (3) Through consultation and collaboration with appropriate educational  
4 entities to ensure relevance to State curriculum frameworks.

5 7-907.1.

6 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "COUNTY BOARD" MEANS THE BALTIMORE COUNTY  
7 BOARD OF EDUCATION.

8 (B) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNTY  
9 BOARD, SHALL ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT WIRELESS  
10 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN ALL BALTIMORE COUNTY SCHOOLS.

11 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

12 (1) PROVIDE A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL MEDIUM FOR ALL STUDENTS IN  
13 THE COUNTY;

14 (2) DEVELOP STUDENT FAMILIARITY WITH THE USES AND ADVANTAGES  
15 OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS; AND

16 (3) PROMOTE THE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF FACULTY TIME.

17 (D) (1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PILOT  
18 PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION.

19 (2) THE COUNTY BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE  
20 SUPERINTENDENT, SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT WIRELESS  
21 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN ALL COUNTY SCHOOLS.

22 (3) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT THE PLAN TO THE STATE  
23 SUPERINTENDENT FOR APPROVAL.

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

26 (I) PROVIDE A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL MEDIUM FOR STUDENTS IN  
27 THE COUNTY;

28 (II) INCLUDE REASONABLE COSTS;

29 (III) ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP STUDENT FAMILIARITY WITH THE  
30 USES AND ADVANTAGES OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS; AND

31 (IV) PROMOTE THE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF FACULTY TIME.

32 (5) ON APPROVAL, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL AWARD A  
33 GRANT TO THE COUNTY BOARD TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM.

1 (E) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001 AND EACH SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR, THE  
2 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET FUNDS FOR THE STATE  
3 SUPERINTENDENT TO AWARD A GRANT TO THE COUNTY BOARD TO ACCOMPLISH  
4 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

5 (F) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL ISSUE A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF, AND THE  
6 BENEFITS ACCRUED FROM, THE PILOT PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR AND, UNDER §  
7 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2 YEARS  
8 AFTER THE DATE THAT THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS A GRANT TO THE  
9 COUNTY BOARD UNDER THIS SECTION.

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