

1 WHEREAS, The goal of the Maryland School Safety Partnership Program is to
2 reduce the current student to guidance counselor ratio to 350 to 1 in elementary
3 schools, 300 to 1 in middle schools, and 250 to 1 in high schools; and

4 WHEREAS, Additional State resources are needed to increase the number of
5 guidance counselors in Maryland public schools; now, therefore,

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

8 **Article - Education**

9 5-213.

10 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND SCHOOL SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

11 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO ASSIST
12 COUNTY BOARDS IN HIRING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS IN PUBLIC
13 SCHOOLS THAT HAVE A HIGH INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST
14 STUDENTS OR FACULTY OR HAVE A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY
15 FOR A FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH.

16 (C) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS.

17 (2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL SOLICIT GRANT PROPOSALS FROM
18 COUNTY BOARDS IN THE STATE FOR HIRING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.

19 (3) (I) A COUNTY BOARD MAY SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR A GRANT TO
20 HIRE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS FOR SPECIFIED SCHOOLS UNDER THE
21 PROGRAM.

22 (II) A PROPOSAL OF A COUNTY BOARD SHALL INCLUDE THE
23 AMOUNT OF THE GRANT REQUESTED AND THE INTENDED USE OF THE GRANT.

24 (4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL SELECT GRANT PROPOSALS TO BE
25 IMPLEMENTED, GIVING PRIORITY TO PROPOSALS FOR:

26 (I) DIVERSE AREAS OF THE STATE, WITH AT LEAST TWO SCHOOLS
27 IN EACH COUNTY SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, IF POSSIBLE;

28 (II) SCHOOLS THAT HAVE A HIGH INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE
29 COMMITTED AGAINST STUDENTS OR FACULTY; AND

30 (III) SCHOOLS IN WHICH AT LEAST 25% OF THE STUDENTS QUALIFY
31 FOR A FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH.

32 (5) AFTER THE STATE BOARD SELECTS A PROPOSAL OF A COUNTY
33 BOARD, THE STATE BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO A COUNTY BOARD FUNDS TO
34 IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROPOSAL.

1 (D) (1) A PARTICIPATING COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
2 DETAILING THE USE OF THE GRANTS AND THE RATIO OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS TO
3 STUDENTS COUNTYWIDE AND PER PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TO THE STATE
4 SUPERINTENDENT BY OCTOBER 1, 2001, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.

5 (2) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE
6 PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR AND, UNDER § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
7 ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY JANUARY 1, 2002, AND EACH YEAR
8 THEREAFTER.

9 (E) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 AND EACH SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR, THE
10 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE \$15,000,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET TO IMPLEMENT THE
11 PROGRAM.

12 (2) APPROPRIATIONS MADE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED TO
13 SUPPLANT THE EXISTING STATE SHARE OF BASIC CURRENT EXPENSES UNDER §
14 5-202 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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