
By: **Delegates Dobson, Phillips, and Marriott**
Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2000
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools - Educational Assistants and Paraprofessional Employees -**
3 **Certification**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring State certification of certain educational assistants and
5 paraprofessionals who are employees of public schools; requiring the State
6 Board of Education to adopt regulations governing the training and certification
7 of educational assistants and paraprofessionals; requiring the State Board to
8 establish conditions of employment; waiving certain certification requirements
9 for certain employees; requiring county boards of education to provide the
10 training in the manner required by regulations of the State Board; defining
11 certain terms; and generally relating to the certification of educational
12 assistants and paraprofessionals employed by public schools.

13 BY adding to
14 Article - Education
15 Section 6-205
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1999 Replacement Volume)

18 **Preamble**

19 WHEREAS, In light of the teacher shortage, educational assistants and
20 paraprofessionals are required to play an increasingly central role in educating school
21 children; and

22 WHEREAS, There are currently no standards for the training and performance
23 of educational assistants and paraprofessionals; and

24 WHEREAS, It is important that educational assistants and paraprofessionals
25 be afforded training and opportunities for career advancement; now, therefore

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

1 **Article - Education**

2 6-205.

3 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT" MEANS AN EMPLOYEE
4 OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL WHO:5 (I) PROVIDES INSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES TO
6 CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND PARENTS; AND7 (II) WORKS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A CERTIFIED STAFF
8 MEMBER WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTRUCTION AND SERVICES PROVIDED.

9 (2) "EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT" INCLUDES A PARAPROFESSIONAL.

10 (B) THE STATE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS TO
11 ACQUIRE AND MAINTAIN STATE CERTIFICATION.12 (C) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2002, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
13 REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATION STANDARDS, CERTIFICATION TRAINING,
14 AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS.15 (D) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT
16 FOR ALL NEW EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS INCLUDING:

17 (1) A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA;

18 (2) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE
19 27, § 743 OF THE CODE; AND20 (3) PROOF OF TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE RELATED TO EDUCATION,
21 CHILD CARE, OR SERVICES TO YOUTH.22 (E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DESIGN CERTIFICATION TRAINING TO OCCUR
23 PRIOR TO AND DURING CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT.24 (F) THE STATE BOARD SHALL WAIVE THE INITIAL CERTIFICATION
25 REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYEES WITH EXPERIENCE COMPARABLE TO THE TRAINING
26 THE EMPLOYEES WOULD RECEIVE IN A CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BUT MAY
27 REQUIRE PARTICIPATION IN ONGOING TRAINING TO MAINTAIN CERTIFICATION.28 (G) COUNTY BOARDS SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING TO ALL EDUCATIONAL
29 ASSISTANTS IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.30 (H) COUNTY BOARDS SHALL PROVIDE FORMAL RECOGNITION TO
31 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING AND
32 DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE.33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 October 1, 2000.