
By: **Delegates Love, Taylor, Boschert, Clagett, D'Amato, Rosso, and Sophocleus**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Summer Youth Connection**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Summer Youth Connection Program in
4 the Department of Business and Economic Development; providing that the
5 Program is to provide certain paid summer work opportunities, employability
6 training, and career counseling to certain disadvantaged youth; requiring funds
7 for the Program to be used for certain services; requiring the Secretary of
8 Business and Economic Development to adopt regulations to implement the
9 Program and monitor program participants; authorizing the Secretary to make
10 grants to local areas to carry out the provisions of this Act; establishing a list of
11 services to be provided under this Act; requiring that Program participants be
12 paid not less than the federal minimum wage; setting a certain time limitation
13 for participation in this Program; establishing certain eligibility requirements
14 for participation; defining certain terms; and generally relating to establishing
15 the Maryland Summer Youth Connection under the Department of Business and
16 Economic Development.

17 BY adding to
18 Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development
19 Section 6-101 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 6. Maryland Summer Youth
20 Connection"
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

23 **Preamble**

24 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland declares that it is necessary to
25 enable the adolescent children of Maryland's poor and working-poor families,
26 especially at-risk 14- to 15-year-olds who have little or no experience with the
27 attitudes, expectations, and social/occupational skills necessary to function
28 competitively as part of Maryland's workforce, to obtain a paid summer job, practical
29 on-the-job experience in meeting employer expectations, and familiarity with the
30 daily demands of a work environment; and

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland declares that it is necessary to
2 provide youth from low-income or working-poor families who have limited or no
3 access to private sector summer employment due to age, lack of transportation,
4 disabilities, or other special needs, with the opportunity to earn needed income at a
5 meaningful summer job; and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland declares that it is necessary to
7 provide economically depressed communities the opportunity to maintain
8 neighborhood stability by providing productive activities for their teenaged children
9 during the summer months; and

10 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland declares that it is necessary to
11 allow State and local governments, private nonprofit agencies, and community
12 organizations to expand their supply of summer workers and to serve as on-the-job
13 mentors to disadvantaged teens; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland declares that it is necessary to
15 provide at-risk teens with a "first job" in order to foster the development of a work
16 ethic and a commitment to self-sufficiency through employment; now, therefore,

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

19 **Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development**

20 SUBTITLE 6. MARYLAND SUMMER YOUTH CONNECTION.

21 6-101.

22 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
23 INDICATED.

24 (2) "LOCAL AREA" MEANS THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS
25 ESTABLISHED IN THIS STATE UNDER THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT
26 OF 1998.

27 (3) "LOW-INCOME" MEANS NOT MORE THAN 150% OF THE FEDERAL
28 POVERTY LEVEL.

29 (4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND SUMMER YOUTH CONNECTION.

30 (5) "SUMMER" MEANS THE PERIOD BEGINNING JUNE 1 OF EACH YEAR
31 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR.

32 (B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND SUMMER YOUTH CONNECTION PROGRAM IN
33 THE DEPARTMENT.

34 (2) (I) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE SUMMER JOBS
35 FOR YOUTH WHO ARE NOT LESS THAN 14 YEARS OF AGE AND NOT MORE THAN 18
36 YEARS OF AGE.

1 (II) THE PROGRAM PRIORITIES ARE TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR YOUTH
2 WHO:
3 1. ARE 14 YEARS OLD AND 15 YEARS OLD;
4 2. ARE LOW-INCOME;
5 3. HAVE A DISABILITY;
6 4. HAVE A SPECIAL NEED; OR
7 5. OTHERWISE ENCOUNTER BARRIERS IN THE LABOR
8 MARKET.

9 (C) THE SECRETARY SHALL:

10 (1) MAKE GRANTS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES TO
11 FISCAL AGENTS FOR LOCAL AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALLOCATION
12 FORMULAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT;

13 (2) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM; AND

14 (3) EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCES OF THE LOCAL AREAS IN CARRYING
15 OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM.

16 (D) UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE LOCAL AREAS SHALL:

17 (1) DEVELOP MEANINGFUL AND WELL-SUPERVISED WORK
18 EXPERIENCES IN:

19 (I) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE NONPROFIT, COMMUNITY-BASED SITES;
20 AND

21 (II) PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT SITES, IF THE EXPERIENCES DEVELOPED
22 IN THE PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT SITES:

23 1. SERVE NOT MORE THAN 20% OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN
24 THE PROGRAM; AND

25 2. EXPOSE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO OCCUPATIONS FOR
26 WHICH THERE IS HIGH DEMAND IN THE LABOR MARKET;

27 (2) PROVIDE ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE JOB SKILLS, INCLUDING BASIC
28 SKILLS, COMPUTER SKILLS, OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS, AND BASIC EMPLOYABILITY
29 SKILLS;

30 (3) PROVIDE CAREER-EXPOSURE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FIELD TRIPS,
31 GUEST SPEAKERS, JOB SHADOWING, APTITUDE AND INTEREST ASSESSMENT, AND
32 COLLEGE FAIRS;

1 (4) PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF WORK SITES
2 TO ENSURE A QUALITY EXPERIENCE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT;

3 (5) SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT DETAILING THE LOCAL AREA'S
4 PLAN FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES; AND

5 (6) SUBMIT AN END-OF-SUMMER REPORT.

6 (E) A LOCAL AREA'S ALLOWABLE PROGRAM COSTS MAY INCLUDE:

7 (1) WAGES PAID TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM;

8 (2) THE COSTS OF SUPERVISION;

9 (3) THE COSTS OF MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES RELATED TO THE WORK
10 PROVIDED;

11 (4) REASONABLE TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO, FROM, AND AROUND THE
12 WORK SITE;

13 (5) RELATED TRAINING COSTS; AND

14 (6) REASONABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COSTS, NOT EXCEEDING
15 10% OF THE FUNDING GRANTED THE LOCAL AREA.

16 (F) A PARTICIPATING YOUTH SHALL BE PAID NOT LESS THAN THE FEDERAL
17 MINIMUM WAGE FOR EACH HOUR WORKED.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2001.