

SENATE BILL 65

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HB 535/00 - W&M

2001 Regular Session
11r0097

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chairman, Budget and Taxation Committee and Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee (Departmental - Education)**

Requested: November 14, 2000

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2001

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Alternative Learning Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the use of certain funds for certain alternative
4 learning programs for certain students under certain circumstances;
5 authorizing the granting of a Maryland high school diploma to students who
6 attend certain alternative learning programs; establishing a certain limitation
7 on certain alternative placements for each public school system; authorizing a
8 certain waiver under certain circumstances; defining a certain term; requiring
9 the State Superintendent of Schools to report annually to the Governor and
10 General Assembly on alternative learning programs; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to alternative learning programs.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Education
14 Section 5-202.1
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Education**

20 5-202.1.

21 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM" MEANS AN
22 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC
23 SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE DELIVERED BY:

- 24 (1) THE LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION, INC.; OR
- 25 (2) NONPROFIT, NONSECTARIAN SPECIALIZED REGIONAL TRAINING
26 CENTERS.

1 (B) THE STATE AND LOCAL SHARE OF BASIC CURRENT EXPENSE FUNDING
2 PER PUPIL MAY BE USED TO FUND THE PLACEMENT OF A STUDENT IN AN
3 ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

4 (1) THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM HAS BEEN APPROVED BY
5 THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY
6 THE STATE BOARD;

7 (2) THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM PROVIDER HAS ENTERED
8 INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY BOARD IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE
9 STUDENT IS ENROLLED THAT INCLUDES AN ARTICULATION ARRANGEMENT WITH
10 THE LOCAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM TO INSURE CONTINUITY IN THE EDUCATIONAL
11 PROGRESS OF THE STUDENT;

12 (3) THE STUDENT IS:

13 (I) ENROLLED IN AND ATTENDING A PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
14 AS SPECIFIED FOR THE CALCULATION OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT
15 UNDER § 5-202 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

16 (II) AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL OR ELIGIBLE FOR
17 ADMISSION TO A SPECIALIZED REGIONAL CAREER TRAINING CENTER OR BOTH;

18 (4) THE PRINCIPAL OR THE DESIGNEE OF THE SCHOOL IN WHICH THE
19 STUDENT IS ENROLLED DEVELOPS AN INDIVIDUAL STUDY PLAN FOR THE STUDENT
20 IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

21 (5) THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS
22 ENROLLED APPROVES THE PLACEMENT IN THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM;
23 AND

24 (6) THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM IS LOCATED WITHIN THE
25 GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OR
26 IS SERVING TWO OR MORE COUNTY BOARDS THAT ARE IN CLOSE GEOGRAPHIC
27 PROXIMITY.

28 (C) A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM UNDER
29 THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AND WHO
30 SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE
31 BOARD AND THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL RECEIVE A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL
32 DIPLOMA ISSUED BY THE PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS
33 ENROLLED.

34 (D) (1) A COUNTY BOARD MAY NOT PLACE MORE THAN 1% OF THE HIGH
35 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT UNDER ITS JURISDICTION AT AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
36 PROGRAM IN A SCHOOL YEAR.

37 (2) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT MAY WAIVE THE ENROLLMENT
38 LIMITATION UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF A COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR GOOD
39 CAUSE SHOWN.

1 (E) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
2 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September
4 1 each year, beginning on September 1, 2002, the State Superintendent of Schools
5 shall issue a report on alternative learning programs to the Governor, and as provided
6 in § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June
9 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.