

SENATE BILL 737

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2002 Regular Session
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CF 2r1965

By: **Senators Middleton, Currie, Della, Dyson, Hafer, Lawlah, McFadden,
Roesser, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Adult Education and Literacy Services**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland State Department of Education to
4 distribute certain grants for adult education, based on certain factors, and in
5 accordance with a certain plan; requiring the Governor to include certain
6 appropriations in the State budget for adult education and literacy services;
7 requiring the Department to create a method for funding certain adult
8 education services; requiring the Department to submit a report of its
9 methodology to the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly by a
10 certain date; and generally relating to funding for adult education and literacy
11 services.

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Education
14 Section 5-217
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2001 Replacement Volume)

17 **Preamble**

18 WHEREAS, It is estimated that at least 613,640 Maryland adults lack a high
19 school diploma; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the National Adult Literacy Survey, over 20% of
21 Maryland adults function at the lowest literacy level; and

22 WHEREAS, Approximately 10% of Maryland residents are foreign born and
23 most need to learn English language skills; and

24 WHEREAS, Only 42% of the incarcerated adults in Maryland who lack a high
25 school diploma can be accommodated in State-mandated adult education programs;
26 and

1 WHEREAS, Maryland currently serves only 3% to 4% of the estimated 729,640
2 adults with literacy needs; and

3 WHEREAS, Maryland invests \$45 per student for adult education, an amount
4 equivalent to the cost of a GED textbook; and

5 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2002 Maryland appropriated less funding for adult
6 education than it did in fiscal year 1990; and

7 WHEREAS, The State appropriation for adult education is less than half the
8 amount that is needed to generate the \$75 federal match that is available for every
9 \$25 of State funding; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that adult education has a 17% to 34% rate of return
11 on investment in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Dropouts who get a diploma can generate an estimated \$7,000 in
13 additional annual income; and

14 WHEREAS, The literacy level of the parent is the best predictor of the literacy
15 achievement of the child; and

16 WHEREAS, A Task Force to Study Adult Education appointed by the Governor
17 and the General Assembly in 2001 studied adult education services, outcomes,
18 workforce connection, and funding; and

19 WHEREAS, The Task Force to Study Adult Education recommended a
20 substantial increase in the State investment for adult education services and that
21 State appropriations be needs based; now, therefore,

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

24 **Article - Education**

25 5-217.

26 (A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR
27 ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE PLAN FOR ADULT
28 EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY.

29 (2) THE GRANTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE BASED
30 ON NEED AND PERFORMANCE.

31 (3) GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE USED FOR ADULT
32 EDUCATION AND LITERACY SERVICES, INCLUDING:

33 (I) GED INSTRUCTION;

1 (II) THE MARYLAND ADULT EXTERNAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
2 UNDER § 7-205.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;

3 (III) ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES;

4 (IV) FAMILY LITERACY; AND

5 (V) BASIC SKILLS AND LITERACY INSTRUCTION.

6 (B) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE
7 STATE BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$2,400,800 FOR COMPETITIVE
8 GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

9 (2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
10 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR GRANTS
11 UNDER THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DETERMINATION OF NEED AND
12 THE COST OF INSTRUCTION FOR ADULT EDUCATION UNDER THE METHODOLOGY
13 DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland State
15 Department of Education shall develop a method for deriving the amount of the
16 annual State aid for adult education on the basis of need and the cost of instruction as
17 required under § 5-217 of the Education Article by this Act and submit the
18 methodology to the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly on or
19 before September 15, 2002.

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 2002.