

SENATE BILL 619

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2003 Regular Session  
3r2095  
CF 3r2393

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By: **Senator Hogan**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003

Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland School for the Blind - Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the amount that counties shall pay to the Maryland  
4 School for the Blind each year; altering the calculation of the appropriation for  
5 the Maryland School for the Blind; defining a certain term; and generally  
6 relating to funding for the Maryland School for the Blind.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Education  
9 Section 8-310(a) and 8-317  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Education**

15 8-310.

16 (a) Each county shall pay the Maryland School for the Blind [\$200 a year] AN  
17 AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE BASIC COST, AS DEFINED IN §  
18 8-415(D)(1) OF THIS TITLE, for each blind child who is sent to the school from the  
19 county EACH YEAR TO SUPPORT THE COST OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING.

20 8-317.

21 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (2) "4-year average annual full-time equivalent enrollment" means:

23 (i) The average number of students enrolled annually in grades  
24 prekindergarten through grade 12 at the Maryland School for the Blind during 4  
25 consecutive school years as determined by dividing the aggregate monthly enrollment  
26 during the 4-year period by the number of months school is in session during the  
27 4-year period; and

1 (ii) One-half the average number of children served annually by  
2 the Maryland School for the Blind's Early Intervention Program during 4 consecutive  
3 school years as determined by dividing the program's aggregate monthly enrollment  
4 during the 4-year period by the number of months school is in session during the  
5 4-year period.

6 (3) "ANNUAL SALARY INCREASE" MEANS THE INCREASE IN THE  
7 AGGREGATE SALARIES OF TEACHERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, AS  
8 REQUIRED BY § 8-309 OF THIS SUBTITLE, FROM THE AGGREGATE SALARIES OF  
9 TEACHERS AND RELATED PROFESSIONALS IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR COMPARED  
10 TO THE SECOND PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.

11 (4) "Growth in the per pupil basic current expense figure" means the  
12 change in the per pupil basic current expense figure from the prior fiscal year to the  
13 current fiscal year divided by the per pupil basic current expense figure from the  
14 prior fiscal year.

15 [(4)] (5) "Per pupil basic current expense figure" means the figure  
16 calculated for each fiscal year by the Department in accordance with § 5-202 of this  
17 article.

18 [(5)] (6) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, "prior year  
19 appropriation" means the State appropriation to the Maryland School for the Blind in  
20 the prior fiscal year less any funding provided under § 8-315 of this subtitle in the  
21 prior fiscal year.

22 [(6)] (7) "Weighted enrollment growth" means the product of 0.2 times  
23 the change in the 4-year average annual full-time equivalent enrollment from the  
24 3rd through the 6th prior school years to the 2nd through the 5th prior school years  
25 divided by the 4-year average annual full-time equivalent enrollment from the 3rd  
26 through the 6th prior school years.

27 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the Maryland School  
28 for the Blind shall receive an appropriation equal to or greater than the sum of:

29 (1) 75% of the prior year appropriation multiplied by the product of:

30 (i) The sum of the weighted enrollment growth plus one; and

31 (ii) The sum of the growth in the per pupil basic current expense  
32 figure plus one; [and]

33 (2) 25% of the prior year appropriation multiplied by the sum of the  
34 weighted enrollment growth plus one; AND

35 (3) 120% OF THE ANNUAL SALARY INCREASE.

36 (c) The "prior year appropriation" used to calculate the fiscal year 2000  
37 appropriation to the Maryland School for the Blind shall be \$11,585,436.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 July 1, 2003.