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By: **Senators McFadden and Gladden**  
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2003  
Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Summer Youth Connection Program**

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

18 BY adding to  
19 Article - Labor and Employment  
20 Section 11-602  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 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 - Labor and Employment**

20 11-602.

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

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

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

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

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 DIVISION.

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 21  
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 DIRECTOR 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 DIRECTOR 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, 2003.