

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Ross**

Requested: October 30, 2003

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2004

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Character Education Programs - Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education in collaboration
4 with the 24 local education agencies to study character education programs;
5 requiring the Department and local education agencies to make certain
6 determinations; requiring the State Superintendent to submit a certain report;
7 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to character
8 education programs.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) The State Department of Education in collaboration with each local
12 education agency shall study character education programs.

13 (b) The State Department of Education and local education agencies shall
14 determine:

15 (1) the resources available for a county interested in establishing a
16 character education program as part of its curriculum;

17 (2) whether character education correlates to improvement in student
18 behavior;

19 (3) how the State can make character education programs more
20 accessible to local education agencies;

21 (4) which character education program models have been determined to
22 be most successful;

23 (5) the innovative models counties currently use to promote good
24 character among students;

25 (6) the cost of character education to local education agencies;

26 (7) the cost of character education to the State;

1 (8) whether and to what extent coordination occurs between the
2 Character Education Office in the State Department of Education and the local
3 education agencies; and

4 (9) whether it is feasible to add character education as a requirement to
5 the State education curriculum.

6 (c) The State Superintendent shall report the Department's findings to the
7 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
8 Assembly on or before December 15, 2004.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
10 effect June 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end
11 of December 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
12 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.