
By: **Delegate Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Passage of Examinations or Assessments - Graduation**
3 **Requirements - Alternative Means to Demonstrate Attainment - Diplomas**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the State Board of Education from establishing
5 county-based diplomas; providing that each student who graduates from a
6 public high school shall receive the same type of diploma or certificate
7 regardless of the student's county of residence; authorizing the State Board of
8 Education to use the passage of a single examination or assessment or a series of
9 examinations or assessments as a requirement for graduation from a public
10 high school only if an alternative means to demonstrate the student's
11 attainment of the tested or assessed standards is developed and approved by the
12 State Board before a certain point in time; and generally relating to the
13 graduation of students from public high schools.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Education
16 Section 7-205
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Education**

22 7-205.

23 (a) [The] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, THE
24 promotion of students in a public school and graduation from a public high school
25 shall be in accordance with:

26 (1) Policies established by the county board; and

27 (2) The rules and regulations of the State Board.

28 (b) (1) THE STATE BOARD MAY NOT ESTABLISH COUNTY-BASED DIPLOMAS.

1 [(1)] (2) Each student who graduates from a public high school shall
2 receive the same type of diploma or certificate, regardless of the high school attended
3 [or], the course taken, OR THE STUDENT'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE.

4 [(2)] (3) The diploma or certificate shall state that the student has
5 completed a program of studies satisfactorily in accordance with the requirements of
6 the State Board.

7 (C) (1) THE STATE BOARD MAY USE THE PASSAGE OF A SINGLE
8 EXAMINATION OR ASSESSMENT OR A SERIES OF EXAMINATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS
9 AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION FROM A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ONLY IF AN
10 ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO DEMONSTRATE THE STUDENT'S ATTAINMENT OF THE
11 STANDARDS TESTED OR ASSESSED IS PROVIDED.

12 (2) THE ALTERNATIVE MEANS REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
13 SUBSECTION SHALL BE DEVELOPED AND APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD BEFORE
14 ANY GRADUATION REQUIREMENT BASED ON A SINGLE EXAMINATION OR
15 ASSESSMENT OR A SERIES OF EXAMINATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS IS IMPLEMENTED
16 BY THE STATE BOARD.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 2004.