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By: **Delegate Menes**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Teachers - Certification - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Course Credit**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Superintendent of Schools and the  
4 Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to require certain  
5 applicants for a teacher's certificate to complete a certain number of semester  
6 hours covering Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and to determine the number  
7 of minimum semester hours covering Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders required  
8 for a teacher's certificate; requiring the State Superintendent to require certain  
9 individuals with certain teacher's certificates to complete a certain number of  
10 semester hours covering Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders over a certain period  
11 of time; requiring certain semester hours to count as continuing professional  
12 education credits towards the renewal of a certain certificate; and generally  
13 relating to requiring course credit for a class on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum  
14 Disorders for certification as a teacher.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article - Education  
17 Section 2-303(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article - Education  
22 Section 2-303(g)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

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**Article - Education**

2 2-303.

3 (a) In addition to the other powers granted and duties imposed under this  
4 article, the State Superintendent has the powers and duties set forth in this section.

5 (g) (1) The State Superintendent shall certificate the professional personnel  
6 in each public school in accordance with this article and subject to the bylaws, rules,  
7 and regulations of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board.

8 (2) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
9 AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD SHALL:

10 (I) REQUIRE AN APPLICANT FOR A TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE TO  
11 COMPLETE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS COVERING FETAL ALCOHOL  
12 SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

13 (II) DETERMINE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS  
14 COVERING FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS REQUIRED FOR A TEACHER'S  
15 CERTIFICATE.

16 (3) Renewal requirements for any professionally certificated employee  
17 may be waived if:

18 (i) The renewal is recommended by the county superintendent  
19 having jurisdiction over the employee; and

20 (ii) The professionally certificated employee is:

21 1. 55 years old or older; or

22 2. Employed in public or approved nonpublic school service  
23 for at least 25 years.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on July 1, 2004, an  
25 individual who holds a teacher's certificate issued by the Department of Education  
26 shall be required by the State Superintendent to complete over the next certification  
27 renewal period the same minimum number semester hours covering Fetal Alcohol  
28 Spectrum Disorders as an applicant for a teacher's certificate. The semester hours  
29 covering Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders shall count as continuing professional  
30 development credits towards the renewal of a teacher's certificate.

31 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 July 1, 2004.