
By: **Senator McFadden**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Finance

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 offer 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 2004 Supplement)

23 Preamble

24 WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to enable the
25 adolescent children of Maryland's poor and working-poor families, especially at-risk
26 14- to 15-year-olds who have little or no experience with the attitudes, expectations,
27 and social/occupational skills necessary to function competitively as part of
28 Maryland's workforce, and to obtain a paid summer job, practical on-the-job
29 experience in meeting employer expectations, and familiarity with the daily demands
30 of a work environment; and

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to provide youth
2 from low-income or working-poor families who have limited or no access to private
3 sector summer employment due to age, lack of transportation, disabilities, or other
4 special needs, with the opportunity to earn needed income at a meaningful summer
5 job; and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to provide
7 economically depressed communities the opportunity to maintain neighborhood
8 stability by providing productive activities for their teenaged children during the
9 summer months; and

10 WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to allow State
11 and local governments, private nonprofit agencies, and community organizations to
12 expand their supply of summer workers and to serve as on-the-job mentors to
13 disadvantaged teens; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to provide
15 at-risk teens with a "first job" in order to foster the development of a work ethic and
16 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 FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES;
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 June 1, 2005.