
By: **Senator McFadden**

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Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: April 2, 2005

CHAPTER_____

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)

1

Preamble

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to enable the
3 adolescent children of Maryland's poor and working-poor families, especially at-risk
4 14- to 15-year-olds who have little or no experience with the attitudes, expectations,
5 and social/occupational skills necessary to function competitively as part of
6 Maryland's workforce, and to obtain a paid summer job, practical on-the-job
7 experience in meeting employer expectations, and familiarity with the daily demands
8 of a work environment; and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to provide
23 at-risk teens with a "first job" in order to foster the development of a work ethic and
24 a commitment to self-sufficiency through employment; now, therefore,

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

27

Article - Labor and Employment

28 11-602.

29 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
30 INDICATED.

31 (2) "LOCAL AREA" MEANS THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS
32 ESTABLISHED IN THIS STATE UNDER THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT
33 OF 1998.

34 (3) "LOW INCOME" MEANS NOT MORE THAN 150% OF THE FEDERAL
35 POVERTY LEVEL.

36 (4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND SUMMER YOUTH CONNECTION
37 PROGRAM.

1 (5) "SUMMER" MEANS THE PERIOD BEGINNING JUNE 1 OF EACH YEAR
2 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR.

3 (B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND SUMMER YOUTH CONNECTION PROGRAM IN
4 THE DIVISION.

5 (2) (I) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE SUMMER JOBS
6 FOR YOUTH WHO ARE NOT LESS THAN 14 YEARS OF AGE AND NOT MORE THAN 21
7 YEARS OF AGE.

8 (II) THE PROGRAM PRIORITIES ARE TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR YOUTH
9 WHO:

- 10 1. ARE 14 YEARS OLD AND 15 YEARS OLD;
- 11 2. ARE FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES;
- 12 3. HAVE A DISABILITY;
- 13 4. HAVE A SPECIAL NEED; OR
- 14 5. OTHERWISE ENCOUNTER BARRIERS IN THE LABOR
15 MARKET.

16 (C) THE DIRECTOR SHALL:

17 (1) MAKE GRANTS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES TO
18 FISCAL AGENTS FOR LOCAL AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALLOCATION
19 FORMULAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT;

20 (2) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM; AND

21 (3) EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCES OF THE LOCAL AREAS IN CARRYING
22 OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM.

23 (D) UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE LOCAL AREAS SHALL:

24 (1) DEVELOP MEANINGFUL AND WELL SUPERVISED WORK
25 EXPERIENCES IN:

26 (I) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE NONPROFIT, COMMUNITY-BASED SITES;
27 AND

28 (II) PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT SITES, IF THE EXPERIENCES DEVELOPED
29 IN THE PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT SITES:

30 1. SERVE NOT MORE THAN 20% OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN
31 THE PROGRAM; AND

32 2. EXPOSE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO OCCUPATIONS FOR
33 WHICH THERE IS HIGH DEMAND IN THE LABOR MARKET;

1 (2) PROVIDE ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE JOB SKILLS, INCLUDING BASIC
2 SKILLS, COMPUTER SKILLS, OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS, AND BASIC EMPLOYABILITY
3 SKILLS;

4 (3) PROVIDE CAREER-EXPOSURE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FIELD TRIPS,
5 GUEST SPEAKERS, JOB SHADOWING, APTITUDE AND INTEREST ASSESSMENT, AND
6 COLLEGE FAIRS;

7 (4) PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF WORK SITES
8 TO ENSURE A QUALITY EXPERIENCE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT;

9 (5) SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE DIRECTOR DETAILING THE LOCAL AREA'S
10 PLAN FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES; AND

11 (6) SUBMIT AN END-OF-SUMMER REPORT.

12 (E) A LOCAL AREA'S ALLOWABLE PROGRAM COSTS MAY INCLUDE:

13 (1) WAGES PAID TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM;

14 (2) THE COSTS OF SUPERVISION;

15 (3) THE COSTS OF MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES RELATED TO THE WORK
16 PROVIDED;

17 (4) REASONABLE TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO, FROM, AND AROUND THE
18 WORK SITE;

19 (5) RELATED TRAINING COSTS; AND

20 (6) REASONABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COSTS, NOT EXCEEDING
21 10% OF THE FUNDING GRANTED THE LOCAL AREA.

22 (F) A PARTICIPATING YOUTH SHALL BE PAID NOT LESS THAN THE FEDERAL
23 MINIMUM WAGE FOR EACH HOUR WORKED.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 June 1, 2005.