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By: **Delegates Cadden, Bohanan, Bozman, Conway, Jameson, Jones, Levy,  
O'Donnell, and Proctor**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Adult External High School Program**

3 FOR the purpose of providing continued funding for the Adult External High School  
4 Program; repealing certain evaluation and reporting requirements; removing  
5 the termination date for the Program; and generally relating to the Maryland  
6 Adult External High School Program.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Education  
9 Section 7-205.1  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Chapter 542 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997, as amended by  
14 Chapter 115 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001  
15 Section 3

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

18 **Article - Education**

19 7-205.1.

20 (a) In this section, "Program" means the Maryland Adult External High  
21 School Program established for the citizens of Maryland under regulations adopted by  
22 the State Board.

23 (b) According to these regulations:

24 (1) The State Board recognizes demonstrated competencies in adults,  
25 regardless of whether these competencies were acquired in a formal school setting;  
26 and

1 (2) In response to this recognition of competencies, the Department  
2 provides alternative requirements and methods of obtaining a Maryland high school  
3 diploma.

4 (c) (1) Because the Program is a valuable service that is provided to the  
5 citizens of Maryland, for each [of] fiscal [years 1998 through 2006] YEAR the  
6 Governor shall include in the annual budget bill submitted to the General Assembly,  
7 including any proposed supplemental budget, a General Fund appropriation for the  
8 Maryland Adult External High School Program in an amount not less than the  
9 amount of the Governor's General Fund appropriation for the Program in fiscal year  
10 [1996] 2006.

11 (2) For each [of] fiscal [years 1998 through 2006] YEAR the Governor  
12 shall include federal funds, to the extent available, for the Program in an amount not  
13 less than the amount of the Governor's federal fund appropriation for the Program in  
14 fiscal year [1996] 2006.

15 [(d) During fiscal year 2006, in order to assess the effectiveness of the  
16 Program, the State Board shall conduct an evaluation of the Program.]

17 (e) The State Board shall report to the General Assembly on or before  
18 December 31, 2005, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on  
19 the results of the evaluation of the Program.]

20 **Chapter 542 of the Acts of 1997, as amended by Chapter 115 of the Acts of**  
21 **2001**

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 June 1, 1997. [It shall remain effective until June 30, 2006, and, at the end of June  
24 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2006.