
By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Bozman, Gilleland, Kaiser, and Ross**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity
4 Program in the State Department of Education; providing for the purpose of the
5 Program; authorizing the Department to select certain school districts and a
6 certain number of teaching candidates to participate in the Program; requiring
7 the Department to share in the cost of providing a certain stipend to certain
8 teaching candidates under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to
9 submit certain reports; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the
10 establishment of the Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Education

13 Section 6-117

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Maryland is a leader in establishing innovative educational
18 initiatives; and

19 WHEREAS, Maryland continues to experience significant teacher shortages,
20 especially in critical areas such as science, mathematics, and special education; and

21 WHEREAS, Public schools at all levels in the State must continue to prepare
22 students to meet the needs of the 21st century global marketplace by focusing on
23 academic achievement in the fields of science, mathematics, and technology; and

24 WHEREAS, In order to meet the demand for new teachers, Maryland should
25 expand opportunities for highly talented individuals with critical skills, work
26 experience, and a commitment to instruction to enter the teaching profession; and

1 WHEREAS, There are examples of highly successful alternative teaching
2 programs around the nation, including Teach for America, New Teacher Project, and
3 others; and

4 WHEREAS, This Act shall establish the Maryland Alternative Teaching
5 Opportunity Program; now, therefore,

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

8 **Article - Education**

9 6-117.

10 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
11 INDICATED.

12 (2) "ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM" MEANS A
13 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY A COUNTY BOARD AND APPROVED BY THE STATE
14 SUPERINTENDENT THAT:

15 (I) LEADS TO A PARTICIPANT RECEIVING A RESIDENT TEACHER
16 CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

17 (II) INCLUDES TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS WITH SUPERVISION AND
18 MENTORING BY A QUALIFIED TEACHER.

19 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND ALTERNATIVE TEACHING
20 OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM.

21 (4) "QUALIFIED CANDIDATE" MEANS A TEACHING CANDIDATE WHO:

22 (I) IS ENROLLED IN AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION
23 PROGRAM;

24 (II) INTENDS TO TEACH IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE IN THE
25 FIELD OF:

26 1. SCIENCE;

27 2. MATHEMATICS; OR

28 3. SPECIAL EDUCATION;

29 (III) HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO A LOCAL BOARD TO TEACH IN A
30 PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS; AND

31 (IV) PARTICIPATES IN A PRERESIDENCY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR
32 A PERIOD OF 4 TO 8 WEEKS ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2007.

1 (B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND ALTERNATIVE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY
2 PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

3 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF
4 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR
5 QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION.

6 (C) (1) A COUNTY BOARD MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE
7 IN THE PROGRAM.

8 (2) WHEN SELECTING PARTICIPANTS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TAKE
9 INTO ACCOUNT:

10 (I) THE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS,
11 AND SPECIAL EDUCATION IN A SCHOOL SYSTEM;

12 (II) THE PERCENTAGE OF CONDITIONAL TEACHERS IN A SCHOOL
13 SYSTEM; AND

14 (III) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.

15 (3) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, EACH FISCAL YEAR THE
16 DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN EACH
17 LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

18 (4) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES THAT MAY
19 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM STATEWIDE MAY NOT EXCEED 150 IN ANY FISCAL
20 YEAR.

21 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL SHARE IN THE
22 COST OF PROVIDING A PER DIEM STIPEND TO AN ELIGIBLE QUALIFIED CANDIDATE
23 WHO PARTICIPATES IN A PRERESIDENCY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

24 (2) THE DEPARTMENT'S SHARE OF THE PER DIEM STIPEND SHALL BE NO
25 MORE THAN 50% OF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM'S LONG-TERM DEGREED SUBSTITUTE
26 PER DIEM RATE, FOR A MAXIMUM OF 40 DAYS.

27 (E) STATE FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS PROGRAM SHALL SUPPLEMENT
28 AND MAY NOT SUPPLANT LOCAL FUNDING PROVIDED FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

29 (F) ON OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT
30 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
31 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, A REPORT REGARDING:

32 (1) THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM AND THE
33 NUMBER OF PER DIEM STIPENDS AWARDED;

34 (2) THE TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS OF RESIDENT TEACHERS
35 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM; AND

1 (3) THE RETENTION RATE OF RESIDENT TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN
2 THE PROGRAM DURING THEIR FIRST 5 YEARS OF TEACHING.

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