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Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Educational Technology Pilot Program - Elementary Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Educational Technology Pilot Program to be  
4 implemented in the elementary schools of certain local jurisdictions in the State;  
5 requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to award a grant to certain  
6 organizations for implementation of the pilot program; providing for the purpose  
7 of the pilot program; requiring the State Superintendent and certain  
8 organizations to develop a plan to implement the pilot program; requiring the  
9 plan to meet certain requirements; providing for the funding of the pilot  
10 program; requiring certain boards of education to submit a certain report on or  
11 before a certain date including certain information; defining certain terms; and  
12 generally relating to the Educational Technology Pilot Program.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article - Education  
15 Section 7-904 and 7-905  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article - Education  
20 Section 7-10A-01 through 7-10A-08, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle  
21 "Subtitle 10A. Educational Technology Pilot Program"  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

24 Preamble

25 WHEREAS, With today's wireless and notebook technologies, it is possible for  
26 students to work together on a network with Internet access from every desk in every  
27 classroom, not just in the computer lab; and

1 WHEREAS, The best time to introduce students to computer technology is in  
2 elementary school, so that their acquaintance with how computers operate can form a  
3 solid foundation for their future needs; and

4 WHEREAS, Just providing technological hardware to schools is not sufficient to  
5 ensure the integration of computers into the lessons taught in the classroom, teachers  
6 must be trained in order to achieve technological integration with their curriculum;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Maryland has the opportunity to create a pilot program within  
9 designated elementary schools, in certain areas of the State, designed to introduce  
10 students to computer technology and train teachers to integrate such technology into  
11 their curriculum; and

12 WHEREAS, A computer technology pilot program will add to the increased  
13 performance of the State's elementary school students participating in the program  
14 and provide performance indicators that illustrate how teachers' familiarity with  
15 technology and teaching resources within the program have increased; now, therefore,

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 7-904.

20 (A) The State Superintendent may:

21 (1) Procure and develop curriculum-based learning resources using  
22 state-of-the-art technologies and techniques designed to increase the achievement  
23 levels of all students in all subject areas;

24 (2) Procure and develop long-term comprehensive instructional  
25 programming and associated support resources that ensure maximum access by all  
26 educational institutions;

27 (3) Develop standards for teachers and other school system employees  
28 for the offering of courses or services on the Internet or through other developing  
29 technologies;

30 (4) Review courses and courseware to assure quality and alignment with  
31 the Maryland content standards and other appropriate standards;

32 (5) Track and issue periodic reports on the type and frequency of courses  
33 or services utilized by teachers and other professionals under this section; and

34 (6) Award grants to eligible private or public consortia to enable eligible  
35 consortia to develop state-of-the-art technology-enhanced instructional products,  
36 resources, and services for use in the classroom, including:

1 (i) The development, production, and distribution of instructional  
2 programming for students;

3 (ii) Staff development programming for teachers; and

4 (iii) Incorporation of creative state-of-the-art applications of  
5 technology-enhanced learning resources, such as:

- 6 1. Computer software;
- 7 2. Databases;
- 8 3. Films;
- 9 4. Transparencies;
- 10 5. Multimedia video and audio discs;
- 11 6. Telecommunications;
- 12 7. Educational television;
- 13 8. Print resources; and
- 14 9. Web-based resources and courses.

15 (B) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 10A OF THIS TITLE, THE STATE  
16 SUPERINTENDENT SHALL AWARD A GRANT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT  
17 PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTARY AGE STUDENTS TO COMPUTER  
18 TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE THAT TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR  
19 CURRICULUM.

20 7-905.

21 In awarding grants under [§ 7-904] § 7-904(A) of this subtitle, the State  
22 Superintendent shall give priority to applications describing programs or systems  
23 that are developed:

24 (1) For statewide application at a reasonable cost;

25 (2) In consultation with classroom teachers; and

26 (3) Through consultation and collaboration with appropriate educational  
27 entities to ensure relevance to State content standards and to other appropriate State  
28 standards.

1 SUBTITLE 10A. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

2 7-10A-01.

3 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
4 INDICATED.

5 (B) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT  
6 PROGRAM.

7 (C) "PROGRAM PROVIDER" MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT, AS  
8 DETERMINED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT:

9 (1) EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSES ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF PERFORMANCE  
10 MANAGEMENT AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR OTHER NONPROFIT  
11 ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS;

12 (2) HAS DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING A RANGE OF  
13 ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS  
14 INCLUDING:

15 (I) ASSESSING PERFORMANCE AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY;

16 (II) DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE  
17 PERFORMANCE AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY; AND

18 (III) IMPLEMENTING THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS;

19 (3) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR  
20 PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT RELATED TO THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS  
21 AND BY ADMINISTRATORS;

22 (4) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP AN  
23 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS;

24 (5) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO ASSIST WITH AND PROVIDE  
25 ON-SITE, HANDS-ON GUIDANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
26 RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

27 (6) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO CREATE AN ON-LINE  
28 COMMUNITY THAT ALLOWS TEACHERS, PARENTS, POLICYMAKERS, AND OTHER  
29 STAKEHOLDERS TO COMMUNICATE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING AND  
30 FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

31 7-10A-02.

32 THERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM IN THE  
33 DEPARTMENT.

1 7-10A-03.

2 THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTARY AGE  
3 STUDENTS TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE SUCH  
4 TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR CURRICULUM.

5 7-10A-04.

6 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-10A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE STATE  
7 SUPERINTENDENT AND PROGRAM PROVIDERS, CHOSEN BY THE STATE  
8 SUPERINTENDENT, SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM IN  
9 TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL SYSTEMS:

- 10 (1) BALTIMORE CITY;
- 11 (2) DORCHESTER COUNTY;
- 12 (3) PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY;
- 13 (4) SOMERSET COUNTY; AND
- 14 (5) ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

15 7-10A-05.

16 THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL:

- 17 (1) PROVIDE A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL MEDIUM FOR STUDENTS IN THE  
18 PILOT PROGRAM;
- 19 (2) BE CAPABLE OF BEING IMPLEMENTED AT A REASONABLE COST;
- 20 (3) ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP STUDENTS' FAMILIARITY WITH  
21 COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE SUCH TECHNOLOGY  
22 INTO THEIR CURRICULUM;
- 23 (4) ADD TO THE INCREASED PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENTS  
24 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM; AND
- 25 (5) PROVIDE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS THAT ILLUSTRATE HOW  
26 TEACHERS' FAMILIARITY WITH TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHING RESOURCES WITHIN  
27 THE PILOT PROGRAM HAVE INCREASED.

28 7-10A-06.

29 ON APPROVAL OF THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM INTO A  
30 SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL PROVIDE A GRANT TO THE  
31 COUNTY BOARD OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM WILL BE  
32 IMPLEMENTED.

1 7-10A-07.

2 BEGINNING WITH THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
3 INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE BUDGET FOR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT TO CARRY OUT  
4 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5 7-10A-08.

6 IN THE COUNTIES IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED, EACH  
7 COUNTY BOARD SHALL ISSUE A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF, AND THE BENEFITS  
8 ACCRUED FROM, THE PILOT PROGRAM, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
9 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
10 WITHIN 2 YEARS FROM THE DATE THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS A GRANT  
11 TO THE COUNTY BOARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

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