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By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 16, 2006

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 25, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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)

1 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **Article - Education**

23 7-904.

24 (A) The State Superintendent may:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (i) The development, production, and distribution of instructional  
7 programming for students;

8 (ii) Staff development programming for teachers; and

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

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

20 (B) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 10A OF THIS TITLE, THE STATE  
21 SUPERINTENDENT SHALL AWARD A GRANT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT  
22 PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTARY AGE STUDENTS TO COMPUTER  
23 TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE THAT TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR  
24 CURRICULUM.

25 7-905.

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

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

30 (2) In consultation with classroom teachers; and

1 (3) Through consultation and collaboration with appropriate educational  
2 entities to ensure relevance to State content standards and to other appropriate State  
3 standards.

4 SUBTITLE 10A. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

5 7-10A-01.

6 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
7 INDICATED.

8 (B) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT  
9 PROGRAM.

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

12 (1) EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSES ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF PERFORMANCE  
13 MANAGEMENT AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR OTHER NONPROFIT  
14 ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS;

15 (2) HAS DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING A RANGE OF  
16 ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS  
17 INCLUDING:

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

19 (II) DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE  
20 PERFORMANCE AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY; AND

21 (III) IMPLEMENTING THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS;

22 (3) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR  
23 PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT RELATED TO THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS  
24 AND BY ADMINISTRATORS;

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

27 (5) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO ASSIST WITH AND PROVIDE  
28 ON-SITE, HANDS-ON GUIDANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
29 RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

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

1 7-10A-02.

2 THERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM IN THE  
3 DEPARTMENT.

4 7-10A-03.

5 THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTARY AGE  
6 STUDENTS TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE SUCH  
7 TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR CURRICULUM.

8 7-10A-04.

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

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

18 7-10A-05.

19 THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL:

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

1 7-10A-06.

2 ON APPROVAL OF THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM INTO A  
3 SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL PROVIDE A GRANT TO THE  
4 COUNTY BOARD OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM WILL BE  
5 IMPLEMENTED.

6 7-10A-07.

7 ~~BEGINNING WITH THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR SHALL~~  
8 ~~INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE BUDGET FOR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT TO CARRY OUT~~  
9 ~~THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

10 FUNDING FOR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS  
11 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

12 7-10A-08.

13 IN THE COUNTIES IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED, EACH  
14 COUNTY BOARD SHALL ISSUE A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF, AND THE BENEFITS  
15 ACCRUED FROM, THE PILOT PROGRAM, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
16 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
17 WITHIN 2 YEARS FROM THE DATE THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AWARDS A GRANT  
18 TO THE COUNTY BOARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

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