

CHAPTER 160

(Senate Bill 492)

AN ACT concerning

Commission on Civic Literacy

FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Civic Literacy; establishing the membership of the Commission; requiring the Commission to elect certain officers from among its members; requiring the State Department of Education to provide staff and certain other support to the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing a member of the Commission to receive certain reimbursements; requiring the Commission to hold certain meetings; authorizing the Commission to hold additional meetings under certain circumstances; requiring certain officials to jointly call the first meeting of the Commission; requiring the Commission to develop, support, and coordinate certain programs; requiring the Commission to develop a clearinghouse on the Internet including certain information; requiring the Commission to submit a certain report to the Governor and General Assembly annually by a certain date; authorizing the Commission to seek and use certain funds and services from certain sources; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission on Civic Literacy.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 24–601
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Education

24–601.

- (A) THERE IS A COMMISSION ON CIVIC LITERACY.**
- (B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

- (1) **THE GOVERNOR, OR THE GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE;**
- (2) **THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, OR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE;**
- (3) **THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DESIGNEE;**
- (4) **THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**
- (5) **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**
- (6) **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, OR THE SPEAKER'S DESIGNEE;**
- (7) **THE CHAIR OF THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;**
- (8) **THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;**
- (9) **THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**
- (10) **THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**
- (11) **THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**
- (12) **A STATE COORDINATOR OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATORS' BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM TO REPRESENT THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**
- (13) **A STATE COORDINATOR OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATORS' BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM TO REPRESENT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

(14) THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(15) THE STATE COORDINATOR OF WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION;

(16) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(17) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS IN MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(18) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(19) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(20) THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(21) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND-DELAWARE-D.C. PRESS ASSOCIATION AND THE MARYLAND D.C. DELAWARE BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF EACH ORGANIZATION ACTING JOINTLY;

(22) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CITIZENSHIP LAW-RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE SCHOOLS OF MARYLAND, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

(23) A MEMBER OF THE POLICY STUDIES ORGANIZATION IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(24) THE CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION THAT IS MULTICULTURAL AND ACHIEVEMENT NETWORK, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;

(25) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(26) THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH ON CIVIC LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT (CIRCLE), OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE; ~~AND~~

(27) TWO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS; AND

(28) TWO TEACHERS WHO TEACH IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.

~~(B)~~ **(C) FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS, THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND ANY OTHER OFFICERS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS.**

~~(C)~~ **(D) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE STAFF AND OTHER NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION USING EXISTING RESOURCES.**

~~(D)~~ **(E) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

~~(E)~~ **(F) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE EACH YEAR AND MAY HOLD ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR OR AT THE REQUEST OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTING JOINTLY SHALL CALL THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION.**

~~(F)~~ **(G) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

(1) DEVELOP AND COORDINATE PROGRAMS IN COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS IN THE IMPORTANCE OF:

(I) REASONED DEBATE, GOOD FAITH, NEGOTIATION, AND COMPROMISE IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY;

(II) INDIVIDUAL INVOLVEMENT IN CREATING SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES; AND

(III) CONSIDERATION AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS IN DELIBERATING, NEGOTIATING, AND ADVOCATING POSITIONS ON PUBLIC CONCERNS;

(2) IDENTIFY CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS IN MARYLAND AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE PROJECTS AS NEEDED;

(3) BUILD A NETWORK OF EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS TO SHARE INFORMATION AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS;

(4) CONSULT WITH ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION AS APPROPRIATE;

(5) DEVELOP A CLEARINGHOUSE THAT SHALL BE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET TO INCLUDE:

(I) A DATABASE OF CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES, LESSON PLANS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND BEST PRACTICES IN CIVIC EDUCATION;

(II) A BULLETIN BOARD TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION OF IDEAS RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION;

(III) AN EVENTS CALENDAR; AND

(IV) LINKS TO CIVIC EDUCATION RESEARCH;

(6) SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN MARYLAND AND ENCOURAGE THE EXPANSION OF THOSE PROGRAMS; AND

(7) REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ANNUALLY ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR.

~~(G)~~ (H) THE COMMISSION MAY:

(1) SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND FUNDS FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING DONATIONS, STATE APPROPRIATIONS, AND FEDERAL GRANTS; AND

(2) SEEK, ACCEPT, AND USE SERVICES FROM INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2007.