

SENATE BILL 1

P1

8lr0510

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Lenett**

Requested: August 17, 2007

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Legislative Youth Advisory Council**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Legislative Youth Advisory Council;
4 providing for the appointment, membership, terms, and duties of the Council;
5 providing for the appointment of the cochairs of the Council; providing for the
6 staffing for the Council; requiring the Council to work with the State
7 Department of Education regarding the granting of school credit for Council
8 service; requiring the Council to hold certain public meetings, conduct certain
9 public hearings, propose legislation, and conduct a public awareness campaign;
10 providing that a member of the Council may not receive compensation as a
11 member of the Council, but is entitled to certain reimbursement; requiring the
12 Council to make an annual report to the General Assembly; defining certain
13 terms; and generally relating to the Maryland Legislative Youth Advisory
14 Council.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – State Government

17 Section 9–2701 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 27. Maryland Legislative
18 Youth Advisory Council”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – State Government**

24 **SUBTITLE 27. MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

25 **9–2701.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (2) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE YOUTH
4 ADVISORY COUNCIL.

5 (3) "YOUTH" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS 22 YEARS OLD OR
6 YOUNGER.

7 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

8 (C) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF:

9 (1) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
10 OF THE SENATE:

11 (I) TEN YOUTHS WHO ARE STUDENTS IN THE STATE AND
12 WHO ARE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOLS, WHO ARE HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS, OR
13 WHO ARE ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS THAT LEAD TO A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR
14 CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE OR A GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA;

15 (II) TWO YOUTHS WHO ARE STUDENTS AT POSTSECONDARY
16 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE; AND

17 (III) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE; AND

18 (2) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF
19 THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

20 (I) TEN YOUTHS WHO ARE STUDENTS IN THE STATE AND
21 WHO ARE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOLS, WHO ARE HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS, OR
22 WHO ARE ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS THAT LEAD TO A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR
23 CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE OR A GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA;

24 (II) TWO YOUTHS WHO ARE STUDENTS AT POSTSECONDARY
25 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE; AND

26 (III) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

27 (D) (1) THE TERM OF A YOUTH MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL IS 9
28 MONTHS, FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO JUNE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

1 **(2) A YOUTH MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS**
2 **BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS**
3 **APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

4 **(3) A YOUTH MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO**
5 **CONSECUTIVE TERMS.**

6 **(4) THE MEMBER FROM THE SENATE AND THE MEMBER FROM**
7 **THE HOUSE SERVE, RESPECTIVELY, AT THE PLEASURE OF THE PRESIDENT OF**
8 **THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.**

9 **(E) (1) AT THE FIRST MEETING OF EACH YOUTH MEMBER TERM**
10 **PERIOD, THE YOUTH MEMBERS SHALL ELECT ONE OF THE YOUTH MEMBERS TO**
11 **SERVE AS COCHAIR FOR A TERM OF 9 MONTHS.**

12 **(2) THE MEMBER FROM THE SENATE AND THE MEMBER FROM**
13 **THE HOUSE SHALL SERVE AS COCHAIRS WITH THE ELECTED YOUTH MEMBER**
14 **COCHAIR.**

15 **(3) THE COUNCIL MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT**
16 **CONSIDERS NECESSARY.**

17 **(F) THE MEMBER FROM THE SENATE, OR THE MEMBER FROM THE**
18 **HOUSE, OR BOTH, SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL.**

19 **(G) THE COUNCIL SHALL:**

20 **(1) INFORM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ISSUES CONCERNING**
21 **YOUTH, INCLUDING OFFERING TESTIMONY ON THESE ISSUES BEFORE**
22 **LEGISLATIVE BODIES;**

23 **(2) EXAMINE ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO YOUTH, INCLUDING:**

24 **(I) EDUCATION;**

25 **(II) A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT;**

26 **(III) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES;**

27 **(IV) STRATEGIES TO INCREASE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN**
28 **LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT;**

29 **(V) HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE;**

1 (VI) SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND UNDERAGE DRINKING;

2 (VII) EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING;

3 (VIII) THE ENVIRONMENT;

4 (IX) POVERTY;

5 (X) HOMELESSNESS; AND

6 (XI) YOUTH ACCESS TO STATE AND LOCAL SERVICES;

7 (3) RECOMMEND ONE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL EACH
8 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONCERNING AN ISSUE INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF
9 THIS SUBSECTION FOR POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION; AND

10 (4) CONDUCT A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO RAISE
11 AWARENESS ABOUT THE COUNCIL AMONG MARYLAND YOUTH.

12 (H) THE COUNCIL SHALL WORK WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
13 EDUCATION REGARDING THE GRANTING OF SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COUNCIL
14 SERVICE.

15 (I) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL SET PRIORITIES AND DETERMINE:

16 (I) THE FUNCTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES;

17 (II) STANDARDS OF CONDUCT;

18 (III) PROCEDURES; AND

19 (IV) THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO CONVENE OR CONDUCT
20 MEETINGS OR FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS AMONG MEMBERS.

21 (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL REVIEW AND CONSIDER WHETHER THE
22 PROCEDURES AND RULES USED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE
23 APPROPRIATE FOR USE AS MODELS FOR THE COUNCIL.

24 (J) THE COUNCIL SHALL:

25 (1) MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR AND CONDUCT ONE
26 OR TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS EACH YEAR ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO YOUTH;

1 **(2) CONDUCT ONE EDUCATIONAL MEETING CONCERNING THE**
2 **LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, TO WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE**
3 **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE**
4 **DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, OR THEIR DESIGNEES, SHALL BE**
5 **INVITED TO SPEAK; AND**

6 **(3) OPEN ALL MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC.**

7 **(K) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL:**

8 **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**
9 **COUNCIL; BUT**

10 **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**
11 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**
12 **BUDGET.**

13 **(L) ON OR BEFORE THE LAST DAY OF THE YOUTH MEMBERS' TERMS,**
14 **THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT ITS ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246**
15 **OF THIS ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 June 1, 2008.