

# SENATE BILL 340

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SB 447/08 – EHE

9lr1112

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By: **Senators Pugh, Conway, Garagiola, Gladden, Harrington, Kelley, Lenett, McFadden, and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2009

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – High School Diploma – GED Options Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to establish a GED  
4 Options Program that provides certain students with an alternative course for  
5 obtaining a high school diploma beginning on a certain date; providing for  
6 certain Program requirements; requiring students enrolled in a certain program  
7 to be counted in the average daily attendance of a certain school system;  
8 requiring the State Board to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to  
9 the GED Options Program for obtaining a high school diploma.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education  
12 Section 7–206  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2008 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – Education  
17 Section 7–301(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2008 Replacement Volume)

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 **7–206.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2009, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH**  
2 **A GED OPTIONS PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES STUDENTS AT RISK OF DROPPING**  
3 **OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL WITH AN ALTERNATIVE COURSE FOR OBTAINING A HIGH**  
4 **SCHOOL DIPLOMA.**

5           **(B) THE PROGRAM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**  
6 **SECTION SHALL:**

7                   **(1) ONLY INCLUDE STUDENTS WHO ARE BETWEEN 16 AND 18**  
8 **YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO BE AT HIGH RISK OF DROPPING OUT**  
9 **OF HIGH SCHOOL;**

10                   **(2) REQUIRE MANDATORY ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE IN A**  
11 **GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR AT**  
12 **LEAST 15 HOURS EACH WEEK IN A PLACE AND MANNER APPROVED BY THE**  
13 **APPROPRIATE SCHOOL AUTHORITY;**

14                   **(3) PROVIDE TRAINING IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS;**  
15 **AND**

16                   **(4) DETERMINE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO BE IN COMPLIANCE**  
17 **WITH THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 7-301 OF THIS**  
18 **TITLE.**

19           **(C) STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE GED OPTIONS PROGRAM UNDER**  
20 **THIS SECTION SHALL BE COUNTED IN THE AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF**  
21 **THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

22           **(D) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT**  
23 **THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

24 7-301.

25           (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each child who  
26 resides in this State and is 5 years old or older and under 16 shall attend a public  
27 school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving  
28 regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in  
29 the public schools to children of the same age.

30           (2) In accordance with regulations of the State Board of Education, a  
31 child who resides in this State and is 5 years old may be exempted from mandatory  
32 school attendance for 1 year if the child's parent or guardian files a written request  
33 with the local school system asking that the child's attendance be delayed due to the  
34 child's level of maturity.

1                   (3)     Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section or in regulations  
2 of the State Board of Education, each child who resides in this State shall attend a  
3 kindergarten program regularly during the school year prior to entering the first  
4 grade unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction in the skills  
5 and studies usually taught in a kindergarten program of a public school.

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 July 1, 2009.