

# SENATE BILL 463

P1

9lr2658  
CF HB 485

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By: **Senator Lenett**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 24, 2009

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Youth Advisory Council – Youth Members**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the term of a youth member of the Maryland Youth  
4 Advisory Council; altering the term of a youth member who is elected cochair of  
5 the Council; requiring the State Department of Education to categorize certain  
6 school absences of a youth member as lawful absences under certain  
7 circumstances; providing that the terms of the youth members of the Council in  
8 office on a certain date shall expire on a certain date; and generally relating to  
9 youth members on the Maryland Youth Advisory Council.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – State Government  
12 Section 9–2701  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – State Government**

18 9–2701.

19 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) “Council” means the Maryland Youth Advisory Council.

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (3) “High school student” means a youth who is enrolled in high  
2 school, who is a home school student, or who is enrolled in a program that leads to a  
3 high school diploma or certificate of attendance or a general equivalency diploma.

4           (4) “Institution of postsecondary education” has the meaning stated in  
5 § 10–101 of the Education Article.

6           (5) “Public senior higher education institution” has the meaning stated  
7 in § 10–101 of the Education Article.

8           (6) “Youth” means an individual who is 14 to 22 years old.

9           (b) There is a Maryland Youth Advisory Council.

10          (c) The Council consists of:

11           (1) the following members appointed by the President of the Senate:

12                   (i) six high school students, including at least three who are  
13 students in the State and who are enrolled in public high schools;

14                   (ii) two youths who are students at institutions of postsecondary  
15 education located in the State; and

16                   (iii) one member of the Senate;

17           (2) the following members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
18 Delegates:

19                   (i) six high school students, including at least three who are  
20 students in the State and who are enrolled in public high schools;

21                   (ii) two youths who are students at institutions of postsecondary  
22 education located in the State; and

23                   (iii) one member of the House of Delegates;

24           (3) the following members appointed by the Governor:

25                   (i) twelve youths, including at least ten high school students, at  
26 least five of whom shall be students in the State who are enrolled in public high  
27 schools; and

28                   (ii) four youths who are students at institutions of  
29 postsecondary education located in the State;

30           (4) the following members selected by other youths, including:

1 (i) fifteen high school students chosen by the Maryland  
2 Association of Student Councils; and

3 (ii) eight youths who are students at institutions of  
4 postsecondary education located in the State, including:

5 1. three members selected by the University System of  
6 Maryland Student Council; and

7 2. five members selected by the Student Advisory  
8 Council to the Maryland Higher Education Commission, including:

9 A. at least one member who is enrolled in a community  
10 college;

11 B. at least one member who is enrolled in a private  
12 college or university; and

13 C. at least one member who is enrolled in a public senior  
14 higher education institution who is not otherwise represented on the Council; and

15 (5) an executive board that consists of:

16 (i) four members selected by the youth members appointed by  
17 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, including:

18 1. three high school students; and

19 2. one student at an institution of postsecondary  
20 education;

21 (ii) four members selected by the youth members appointed by  
22 the Governor, including:

23 1. three high school students; and

24 2. one student at an institution of postsecondary  
25 education; and

26 (iii) four members selected by the youth members chosen by  
27 other youth, including:

28 1. three high school students; and

29 2. one student at an institution of postsecondary  
30 education.

1 (d) In deciding which members to appoint or select:

2 (1) the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall, to  
3 the extent practicable, consider:

4 (i) the geographic and demographic diversity of the State;

5 (ii) diversity in education, including nontraditional settings  
6 such as vocational and tech-oriented education; and

7 (iii) youths with disabilities;

8 (2) the Governor shall, to the extent practicable, consider:

9 (i) the geographic and demographic diversity of the State;

10 (ii) diversity in education, including nontraditional settings  
11 such as vocational and tech-oriented education;

12 (iii) youths with disabilities; and

13 (iv) transitional youths who are not in high school or an  
14 institution of postsecondary education and not likely to attend an institution of  
15 postsecondary education; and

16 (3) the Maryland Association of Student Councils shall consider  
17 youths who are enrolled in schools represented by the Association as well as  
18 applicants who are enrolled in schools that are not represented by the Association.

19 (e) (1) The term of a youth member of the Council is [9 months] **1 YEAR**,  
20 from September 1 [to June 1] **THROUGH AUGUST 30** of the following year.

21 (2) A youth member who is appointed or selected after a term has  
22 begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed or selected  
23 and qualifies.

24 (3) A youth member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

25 (4) The member from the Senate and the member from the House  
26 serve, respectively, at the pleasure of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
27 the House.

28 (f) (1) At the first meeting of each youth member term period, the youth  
29 members shall elect one of the youth members to serve as cochair for a term of [9  
30 months] **1 YEAR**.

1           (2) A representative of the Governor's Office for Children appointed by  
2 the Governor, the member from the Senate, and the member from the House shall  
3 serve as cochairs with the elected youth member cochair.

4           (3) The Council may appoint any officers that it considers necessary.

5           (4) The cochair appointed by the Governor shall, on behalf of the  
6 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, develop an  
7 initial application and application process, both of which the Council may change at its  
8 discretion.

9           (g) The Governor's Office for Children, in addition to the member from the  
10 Senate, or the member from the House, or both, shall provide staff support for the  
11 Council.

12          (h) The Council shall:

13           (1) inform the Governor and the General Assembly of issues  
14 concerning youth, including offering testimony on these issues before legislative  
15 bodies;

16           (2) examine issues of importance to youth, including:

17                   (i) education;

18                   (ii) a safe learning environment;

19                   (iii) employment opportunities;

20                   (iv) strategies to increase youth participation in local and State  
21 government;

22                   (v) health care access and quality of care;

23                   (vi) substance abuse and underage drinking;

24                   (vii) emotional and physical well-being;

25                   (viii) the environment;

26                   (ix) poverty;

27                   (x) homelessness;

28                   (xi) youth access to State and local services;

29                   (xii) suicide prevention; and

1 (xiii) educational accessibility issues for students with disabilities,  
2 including access to:

- 3 1. schools;
- 4 2. school-related activities; and
- 5 3. classes;

6 (3) recommend one legislative proposal each legislative session  
7 concerning an issue included in paragraph (2) of this subsection for possible  
8 introduction; and

9 (4) conduct a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the  
10 Council among Maryland youth.

11 (i) (1) The Council shall work with the State Department of Education  
12 regarding the granting of school credit for Council service.

13 (2) The State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher  
14 Education Commission shall notify the head administrators of all State high schools  
15 and of all institutions of postsecondary education, respectively, of the creation of the  
16 Council so that the administrators may inform their students.

17 **(3) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOW UP**  
18 **TO FOUR ABSENCES OF A YOUTH MEMBER FROM SCHOOL PER SCHOOL YEAR TO**  
19 **BE CATEGORIZED AS LAWFUL ABSENCES IF THE ABSENCES WERE DUE TO THE**  
20 **BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL.**

21 (j) (1) The Council shall set priorities and determine:

- 22 (i) the function of subcommittees;
- 23 (ii) standards of conduct;
- 24 (iii) procedures; and
- 25 (iv) the use of technology to convene or conduct meetings or  
26 facilitate communications among members.

27 (2) The Council shall review and consider whether the procedures and  
28 rules used by the General Assembly would be appropriate for use as models for the  
29 Council.

30 (k) The Council shall:

1 (1) meet at least four times each year and conduct one or two public  
2 hearings each year on issues of importance to youth;

3 (2) conduct one educational meeting concerning the legislative process,  
4 to which the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Executive  
5 Director of the Department of Legislative Services, or their designees, shall be invited  
6 to speak; and

7 (3) open all meetings to the public.

8 (1) A member of the Council:

9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Council; but

10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
11 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

12 (m) On or before the last day of the youth members' terms, the Council shall  
13 report its activities to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of this article, to  
14 the General Assembly.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the youth  
16 members of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council in office on the effective date of this  
17 Act shall expire at the end of August 30, 2009.

18 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
19 effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2009.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.