

SENATE BILL 689

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SB 967/08 – EHE

9lr0560

By: **Senator Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Study Group on Expanding Enrollment Options for High School**
3 **Students**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Study Group on Expanding Enrollment Options for
5 High School Students; establishing the membership and staffing of the Study
6 Group; providing for the designation of co–chairs of the Study Group; requiring
7 the Study Group to review, evaluate, and make findings and recommendations
8 regarding certain issues; requiring the Study Group to submit a report to the
9 Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; prohibiting a member of
10 the Study Group from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of
11 the Study Group to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the
12 termination of this Act; and generally relating to expanding enrollment options
13 for high school students.

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, Many Maryland students find that the traditional 4–year
16 enrollment plan for high school completion does not serve their personal academic
17 interests and needs and are in search of legitimate approaches to the high school
18 program configuration that permits from 3 to 5 years of enrollment as appropriate to
19 their needs; and

20 WHEREAS, Some Maryland students are pursuing an accelerated high school
21 course sequence and find that they need specialized academic experiences in lieu of or
22 during their senior year to facilitate attainment of their personal academic goals; and

23 WHEREAS, Some Maryland high school students find that the course offerings
24 available at community colleges, 4–year colleges, and universities better match their
25 personal academic goals; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Maryland high schools typically provide Advanced Placement
2 courses or International Baccalaureate programs that equate to freshman level college
3 or university courses, and that often are accepted by colleges and universities for
4 college credit; and

5 WHEREAS, Some Maryland high school students achieve their academic work
6 their senior year through dual enrollment arrangements that involve courses taught
7 at the student's home high school and other courses that are taught at a community
8 college, 4-year college, or university, with the college or university work accepted by
9 the student's high school toward the awarding of the Maryland high school diploma;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Dually enrolled students are expected to defray the costs of higher
12 education enrollment while enrolled at both the high school and the college or
13 university, and are ineligible to access financial aid offered through higher education
14 institutions, such as those available through the federal Pell Grant Program; and

15 WHEREAS, Financially challenged families frequently need financial
16 assistance in order to support the student's academic work as they transition into
17 higher education; and

18 WHEREAS, Local school systems would be able to serve accelerated students
19 more effectively if they were able to develop cooperative agreements involving the
20 student, parent, and the higher education institution; and

21 WHEREAS, Some students, particularly students with disabilities and English
22 Language Learners, find that it takes more than 4 years to successfully complete their
23 high school programs; and

24 WHEREAS, Schools frequently have difficulty matching the 4-year high school
25 program to the individual needs of students who more appropriately would complete
26 the high school program in more or less time than the standard; now, therefore,

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
28 MARYLAND, That

29 (a) There is a Study Group on Expanding Enrollment Options for High
30 School Students.

31 (b) The Study Group consists of the following members:

32 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, who shall be the cochair of
33 the Study Group, appointed by the President of the Senate;

34 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, who shall be the cochair of
35 the Study Group, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

1 (3) The State Superintendent of Schools, or an individual designated
2 by the State Superintendent;

3 (4) One representative of the Public Schools Superintendents
4 Association, designated by the Association;

5 (5) The Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or
6 an individual designated by the Secretary;

7 (6) Two principals of Maryland comprehensive high schools, one from
8 a large enrollment (1,400 or more students) high school and one from a small
9 enrollment (less than 1,000 students) high school, designated by the Maryland
10 Association of Secondary School Principals;

11 (7) One representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of
12 Education, designated by the Association;

13 (8) One assistant superintendent for instruction, designated by the
14 State Superintendent of Schools;

15 (9) One representative of the Community Colleges Association of
16 Maryland, designated by the Association;

17 (10) One representative of Maryland public 4–year colleges and
18 universities, designated by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland;

19 (11) One representative of Maryland’s independent 4–year colleges or
20 universities, designated by the Maryland Association of Independent Colleges and
21 Universities; and

22 (12) One representative of the Maryland business community
23 designated by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

24 (c) The State Department of Education, the University System of Maryland,
25 and the Maryland Higher Education Commission jointly shall provide staff support for
26 the Study Group.

27 (d) A member of the Study Group:

28 (1) May not receive compensation for serving on the Study Group; but

29 (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
30 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

31 (e) (1) The Study Group shall review, evaluate, and make findings and
32 recommendations regarding the following issues relating to enrollment options for the
33 senior year for Maryland high school students:

1 (i) Data regarding students over the past three years who have
2 participated in Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate programs,
3 dual enrollment, and early admission to college programs;

4 (ii) Data regarding students over the past three years who
5 dropped out of high school and selected alternative routes for completion of their
6 educational goals, including the GED;

7 (iii) Benefits and disadvantages of Advanced Placement and
8 International Baccalaureate programs, dual enrollment, and early admission to college
9 programs;

10 (iv) Benefits and disadvantages of GED and other alternative
11 routes for completion of educational goals for students exiting high school before
12 graduation;

13 (v) Evaluation of the quality of academic experiences for high
14 school students taking college or university courses versus Advanced Placement or
15 International Baccalaureate programs;

16 (vi) Support and guidance provided and needed for families of
17 students seeking challenging academic experiences in their senior year of high school
18 or in lieu of the senior year of high school;

19 (vii) Support and guidance provided and needed for families of
20 struggling students who find that the 4-year high school program is inadequate to
21 meet their needs;

22 (viii) Fiscal implications for local school systems, colleges and
23 universities, and families on account of the offering of quality experiences for high
24 school seniors;

25 (ix) School accountability issues associated with the
26 implementation of programs for high school students seeking challenging academic
27 experiences and for those needing more than four years to complete a successful high
28 school experience; and

29 (x) Successful efforts in other states that are reconfiguring high
30 school experiences to meet student needs with nontraditional schedules.

31 (2) The Study Group's findings and recommendations at a minimum
32 shall include:

33 (i) Short-term strategies for reconfiguring high school
34 programs for nontraditional students;

35 (ii) Funding and fiscal considerations that must be considered if
36 high school programs are reconfigured for nontraditional students;

1 (iii) Recommendations about the lack of uniformity among
2 Maryland colleges and universities in acceptable minimum Advanced Placement
3 scores for college credit;

4 (iv) Examination of the awarding of Advanced Placement credit
5 by colleges and universities;

6 (v) Recommendations for State Board action regarding the role
7 of GED programs as alternative graduation routes, revisions in high school graduation
8 requirements, and reexamination of the definition of the high school senior year, as
9 necessary;

10 (vi) Recommendations related to appropriate long-term funding
11 strategies for students in dual enrollment or senior year placement at colleges or
12 universities;

13 (vii) A uniform plan that recognizes and supports the multiple
14 pathways that students take to achieve the Maryland high school diploma in fewer or
15 more than the traditional 4-year time frame; and

16 (viii) Requisite record keeping that would need to be initiated to
17 ensure legal sufficiency and compliance with State and federal laws.

18 (3) On or before December 1, 2009, the Study Group shall report its
19 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
20 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the
23 end of June 30, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
24 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.