

Chapter 399

(House Bill 233)

AN ACT concerning

Howard County Public Schools – Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

Ho. Co. 12-10

FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to develop and operate a certain website that includes certain information about certain payments; specifying certain parameters of the website; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the development and operation of a searchable website by the Howard County Board of Education.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 5-116

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

5-116.

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

(2) (I) “PAYEE” MEANS ANY PARTY WHO RECEIVES FROM THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AN AGGREGATE PAYMENT OF \$25,000 IN A FISCAL YEAR.

(II) “PAYEE” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

1. A HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE WITH RESPECT TO THE EMPLOYEE’S COMPENSATION; OR

2. A HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREE WITH RESPECT TO THE RETIREE’S RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE.

(3) “SEARCHABLE WEBSITE” MEANS A WEBSITE CREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION THAT DISPLAYS AND SEARCHES PAYMENT DATA OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2012, THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP AND OPERATE A SINGLE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT NO COST THROUGH THE INTERNET.

(C) THE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE SHALL CONTAIN HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PAYMENT DATA INCLUDING:

- (1) THE NAME OF A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT;**
- (2) THE LOCATION OF A PAYEE BY ZIP CODE; AND**
- (3) THE AMOUNT OF A PAYMENT.**

(D) THE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE SHALL ALLOW THE USER TO:

(1) SEARCH DATA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER; AND

(2) SEARCH BY THE FOLLOWING DATA FIELDS:

(I) A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT; AND

(II) THE ZIP CODE OF A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT.

(E) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION THAT IS CONFIDENTIAL UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW.

(F) THIS SECTION SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE “HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT”.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.