

SENATE BILL 674

F1

EMERGENCY BILL

2lr2582
CF 2lr2841

By: **Senator Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Primary and Secondary Education – Online Courses – Local Approval and**
3 **Reporting Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board of education to procure certain online
5 courses and services that the county board has approved as being high quality
6 and in alignment with certain State standards; requiring a certain county board
7 that has approved an online course to submit a certain report to the State
8 Department of Education; making stylistic changes; making this Act an
9 emergency measure; and generally relating to the approval of and the reporting
10 requirements for online courses by county boards of education.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section 7–1002
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 7–1002.

20 (a) The Department shall provide Maryland virtual learning opportunities
21 that include:

22 (1) Offering a distance–learning program to provide Maryland public
23 school students with equal opportunities to develop a strong academic foundation;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Offering expanded educational choices not otherwise available to
2 students through [on–line] **ONLINE** courses and services; and

3 (3) Expanding the professional development opportunities available to
4 educational staff in Maryland public schools through [on–line] **ONLINE** courses and
5 services.

6 (b) **(1) [With] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
7 **SUBSECTION, WITH** the approval of the State Board and the State Superintendent,
8 the Department shall:

9 **[(1)] (I)** Develop [on–line] **ONLINE** courses and services;

10 **[(2)] (II)** Procure [on–line] **ONLINE** courses and services;

11 **[(3)] (III)** Develop standards for teachers and other school system
12 employees for the offering of courses or services on the Internet or through other
13 developing technologies; and

14 **[(4)] (IV)** Review courses and courseware to assure quality and
15 alignment with the Maryland content standards and other appropriate standards.

16 **(2) (I) A COUNTY BOARD MAY PROCURE ONLINE COURSES AND**
17 **SERVICES THAT THE COUNTY BOARD HAS APPROVED AS HIGH QUALITY AND IN**
18 **ALIGNMENT WITH THE MARYLAND CONTENT STANDARDS AND OTHER**
19 **APPROPRIATE STANDARDS.**

20 **(II) A COUNTY BOARD THAT APPROVES AN ONLINE COURSE**
21 **UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT**
22 **INCLUDES THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY AND IN THE MANNER DETERMINED**
23 **BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

24 (c) (1) There is a Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Fund.

25 (2) The State Board may set reasonable fees for [on–line] **ONLINE**
26 courses and services.

27 (3) The fees charged shall be set so as to produce funds to support
28 maintenance of Maryland virtual learning opportunities.

29 (4) The State Board shall pay all funds collected under this subtitle to
30 the Comptroller of the State.

31 (5) The Comptroller shall distribute the fees to the Maryland Virtual
32 Learning Opportunities Fund.

1 (6) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund not subject to § 7–302 of
2 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

3 (7) Any unspent portions of the Fund may not be transferred or revert
4 to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the
5 purposes specified in this subtitle.

6 (8) The Legislative Auditor shall audit the accounts and transactions
7 of the Fund as provided in § 2–1220 of the State Government Article.

8 (d) The State Board may adopt regulations to implement the provisions of
9 this section.

10 (e) The Department shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of
11 the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before September 1, 2004,
12 a report on the progress of the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program,
13 including a description of the available [on–line] **ONLINE** courses and services.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
15 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
16 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members
17 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
18 the date it is enacted.