

Chapter 424

(House Bill 1220)

AN ACT concerning

Secondary Education – Electronic Reader Pilot Program in Baltimore City – Study

FOR the purpose of establishing the Electronic Reader Pilot Program to be implemented in middle and high schools in Baltimore City; requiring the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to award a grant to the Board for implementation of the Pilot Program; providing for the purpose of the Pilot Program; requiring the Chief Executive Officer and a certain organization to develop a plan to implement the Pilot Program; requiring the plan to meet certain requirements; providing for the funding of the Pilot Program; requiring the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to submit a certain report on or before a certain date and including certain information; defining certain terms; requiring the State Department of Education to study establishing an electronic reader pilot program in certain public middle schools or high schools in the State in accordance with certain requirements; requiring the Department to report certain findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Electronic Reader Pilot Program in Baltimore City studying the establishment of an electronic reader pilot program.

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article Education~~

~~Section 7-10B-01 through 7-10B-08 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10B. Electronic Reader Pilot Program in Baltimore City”~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)~~

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

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 10B. ELECTRONIC READER PILOT PROGRAM IN BALTIMORE CITY.

7-10B-01.

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

~~(B) "CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER" MEANS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.~~

~~(C) "ELECTRONIC READER" MEANS A DEVICE WITH WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY FOR DOWNLOADING READING CONTENT, INCLUDING BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, AND PERIODICALS.~~

~~(D) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE ELECTRONIC READER PILOT PROGRAM IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

~~(E) "PILOT PROGRAM PROVIDER" MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT, AS DETERMINED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS:~~

~~(1) EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSES ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS;~~

~~(2) HAS DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING A RANGE OF ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFIT COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS, INCLUDING:~~

~~(i) ASSESSING PERFORMANCE AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY; AND~~

~~(ii) DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY;~~

~~(3) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT RELATED TO THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS AND BY ADMINISTRATORS;~~

~~(4) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS;~~

~~(5) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO ASSIST WITH AND PROVIDE ON-SITE, HANDS-ON GUIDANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS; AND~~

~~(6) HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO CREATE AN ONLINE COMMUNITY THAT ALLOWS TEACHERS, PARENTS, POLICYMAKERS, AND OTHER~~

~~STAKEHOLDERS TO COMMUNICATE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING AND FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.~~

7 10B 02.

~~THERE IS AN ELECTRONIC READER PILOT PROGRAM IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

7 10B 03.

~~THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN BALTIMORE CITY REQUIRED READING LISTS AND READING LIST MATERIALS ON ELECTRONIC READERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LIBRARY STAFF OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS.~~

7 10B 04.

~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7 10B 05 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE PILOT PROGRAM PROVIDER, SELECTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

7 10B 05.

~~THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE DESIGNED TO:~~

~~(1) BE CAPABLE OF BEING IMPLEMENTED AT A REASONABLE COST;~~

~~(2) ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP STUDENTS' FAMILIARITY WITH ELECTRONIC READERS AND TRAIN TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE THE USE OF ELECTRONIC READERS INTO THEIR CURRICULUM;~~

~~(3) ADD TO THE INCREASED PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(4) PROVIDE STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION INDICATORS THAT ILLUSTRATE HOW TEACHERS' FAMILIARITY WITH ELECTRONIC READERS AND THE TEACHING RESOURCES THAT MAY BE UTILIZED WITH ELECTRONIC READERS INCREASES THE PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.~~

7-10B-06.

~~ON APPROVAL OF THE PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM INTO THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHALL PROVIDE A GRANT TO THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM.~~

7-10B-07.

~~FUNDING FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

7-10B-08.

~~THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS SHALL ISSUE A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF, AND THE BENEFITS ACCRUED FROM, THE PILOT PROGRAM, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHIN 2 YEARS FROM THE DATE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AWARDS A GRANT TO THE BOARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

(a) The State Department of Education shall study establishing an electronic reader pilot program in the public middle schools or high schools in the State.

(b) The Department shall study:

(1) whether there is an educational benefit to making available to middle school or high school students in public schools required reading lists and reading list materials on electronic readers in conjunction with the library staff of the middle schools or high schools;

(2) whether it is advisable to limit the pilot program to local school systems that have 65% of their students who qualify for the free- and reduced-price lunch program;

(3) whether the pilot program would be most effective in middle schools or high schools;

(4) whether the minimum standards for a pilot program should include:

(i) the encouragement and development of students' familiarity with electronic readers and training for teachers to integrate the use of electronic readers into their curriculum;

(ii) the increased academic performance of the students participating in the pilot program; and

(iii) student performance evaluation indicators that illustrate how teachers' familiarity with electronic readers and the teaching resources that may be utilized with electronic readers increases the performance of students participating in the pilot program; and

(5) the projected costs of and savings from implementing the pilot program.

(c) The Department shall only consider the use of technology that meets the technical standards for electronic and information technology issued under Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. § 794(a)(2).

(d) On or before December 31, 2012, the Department shall:

(1) determine whether to establish an electronic reader pilot program in public middle schools or high schools in the State; and

(2) report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.