

HOUSE BILL 1268

P1, L6

3lr3059

By: **Delegates Dwyer, Boteler, Glass, Impallaria, Kipke, McConkey, McDonough, W. Miller, Norman, Ready, Schuh, Stocksdale, Vitale, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Official Oaths – Educational Course Requirement**
3 **(Maryland Oath of Office Affirmation Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that, before taking the oath of office, an individual
5 elected or appointed to an office take a certain course on certain topics that is
6 offered by certain entities; requiring that the course include a certain number of
7 hours of instruction and certain content and materials, and use, under certain
8 circumstances, a certain dictionary; and generally relating to an educational
9 course requirement for certain officials before taking the official oath of office.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – State Government

12 Section 16–106.1

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 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 **16–106.1.**

19 **(A) BEFORE TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE, AN INDIVIDUAL ELECTED OR**
20 **APPOINTED TO AN OFFICE SHALL TAKE A COURSE ON THE OATH OF OFFICE, THE**
21 **UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION’S BILL OF RIGHTS, AND THE MARYLAND**
22 **DECLARATION OF RIGHTS THAT IS OFFERED BY:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN THE**
2 **STATE; OR**

3 **(2) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT OFFERS A COURSE ON**
4 **THE FORMATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE UNITED STATES**
5 **CONSTITUTION AND THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.**

6 **(B) THE COURSE THAT IS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**
7 **SECTION SHALL:**

8 **(1) INCLUDE AT LEAST 6 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION;**

9 **(2) INCLUDE CONTENT AND MATERIALS THAT CONFORM TO THE**
10 **INTENTIONS OF, DEFINITIONS USED BY, AND APPLICATION BY THE FRAMERS OF**
11 **THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION; AND**

12 **(3) AS APPLICABLE, USE THE 1828 EDITION OF WEBSTER'S**
13 **DICTIONARY WHEN DEFINING TERMS.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2013.