

HOUSE BILL 1415

F1, F2, F5

8lr2277
CF SB 1092

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) and Delegates Kaiser, McIntosh, Jones, A. Washington, Luedtke, and Lierman**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 2018

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with
4 certain entities, to establish a certain outreach program and certain digital
5 recruitment platform; requiring the outreach program and digital recruitment
6 platform to make use of certain media and certain online resources to implement a
7 certain marketing campaign; requiring the outreach program and digital
8 recruitment platform to focus recruitment efforts on certain individuals and certain
9 teacher shortage fields; requiring the Department to consult with certain colleges
10 and universities; requiring the outreach program and digital recruitment platform
11 to include certain marketing efforts; requiring the Governor to annually appropriate
12 at least a certain amount for the Department to implement certain requirements;
13 establishing the Maryland Early Literacy Initiative in the Department; establishing
14 the purpose of the Initiative; requiring the Initiative to be established in at least a
15 certain number of counties; requiring the Department to develop and administer the
16 Initiative; authorizing a certain school, ~~in collaboration with a certain entity,~~ in
17 certain school years to make a certain application to the Department for grants
18 under the Initiative under certain circumstances; authorizing a certain school to
19 coordinate and partner with certain schools to jointly apply for a grant under the
20 Initiative; authorizing a county board to apply on behalf of certain schools; requiring
21 an application to include certain information; requiring the Department to award
22 grants in a certain priority in a certain circumstance; requiring a certain program to
23 meet certain requirements; requiring the Governor to annually appropriate a certain

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 amount to the Department for the Initiative ~~beginning in a certain fiscal year in~~
2 certain fiscal years; authorizing the Department to retain a certain portion of a
3 certain appropriation to hire certain staff to administer the Initiative; requiring the
4 Department to distribute up to a certain number of grants for a certain period;
5 limiting the grant amount that may be awarded to a certain school each year;
6 requiring a grant under the Initiative to be renewed by the Department under
7 certain circumstances; authorizing a certain school to apply for and receive certain
8 additional financial assistance for a certain benefit; requiring the Department to
9 adopt certain regulations on or before a certain date; requiring the Department to
10 submit a certain report to the Governor and certain committees of the General
11 Assembly on or before ~~certain dates~~ a certain date; requiring the Governor to
12 annually appropriate a certain amount to the Prekindergarten Expansion Fund
13 beginning in a certain fiscal year; requiring the Governor to include a certain
14 appropriation beginning in a certain fiscal year for grants under the Public School
15 Opportunities Enhancement Program; requiring a certain grantee to receive a grant
16 in a certain amount in a certain fiscal year under certain circumstances; establishing
17 the Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP) grant program; providing for
18 the purpose of the Program; requiring the Department to notify a county board with
19 certain information; authorizing a certain school to apply for a grant under certain
20 circumstances; authorizing a certain school to coordinate and partner with certain
21 schools to jointly apply for a grant; authorizing a county board to apply on behalf of
22 certain schools; requiring the application to provide a certain plan; authorizing a
23 certain school to partner with a certain nonprofit organization subject to a certain
24 requirement; requiring a certain extended academic program to include certain
25 programs targeted to certain students; providing the minimum amount of
26 programming for certain programs; requiring the Department to review applications
27 and establish procedures to account for certain schools in counties that participate
28 in a certain federal program; requiring the Department to prioritize awarding grants
29 to certain applicants and ensure geographic diversity under certain circumstances;
30 requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation beginning in a certain
31 fiscal year for the Program; authorizing the Department to retain a certain portion
32 of a certain appropriation to hire certain staff to administer the Program; requiring
33 the Department, in collaboration with certain schools, to report to the General
34 Assembly on or before certain dates on certain issues; altering certain eligibility
35 requirements for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship program; specifying
36 that certain individuals are eligible to receive a certain scholarship; altering the
37 number of years for a certain individual to fulfill a certain service obligation;
38 requiring the Governor to annually include at least a certain appropriation in the
39 State budget to award certain scholarships; establishing a Career and Technology
40 Education Innovation Grant; specifying the purpose of the Grant; requiring the
41 Department to administer the Grant; authorizing certain county boards or
42 community colleges to submit a proposal to receive a grant for a certain career and
43 technology education ~~program~~ pathway; providing the eligibility and application
44 requirements ~~for a county board~~ to receive a grant; requiring the Department to
45 establish certain processes and procedures for accepting and evaluating applications;
46 requiring the Department to make awards in a timely fashion; requiring the
47 Governor to annually appropriate at least a certain amount for a certain grant

1 program; authorizing the Department to retain a certain portion of a certain
2 appropriation to hire certain staff to administer the grant program; extending the
3 termination date of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education;
4 extending the date for the Commission to submit a final report; extending the date
5 for the Department to contract with a certain entity for a certain independent study;
6 requiring a certain independent study to include certain issues and make certain
7 recommendations; extending the date for the Department to submit a final report;
8 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Commission on Innovation and
9 Excellence in Education.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education

12 Section 2–306 and 5–216; 7–2001 through 7–2006 to be under the new subtitle
13 “Subtitle 20. Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP)”; and 21–205

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Education

18 Section 7–101.2(a)(1), (4), and (6), (b)(1) and (2), and (e), 7–1702(a), 18–2201,
19 18–2202, 18–2205 through 18–2208, and 18–2210

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Education

24 Section 7–101.2(d), 7–1704, 18–2203, 18–2204, and 18–2209

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

28 Chapter 701 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016

29 Section 1(a)

30 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

31 Chapter 701 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016

32 Section 1(h) and 4

33 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

34 Chapter 702 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016

35 Section 1(a)

36 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

37 Chapter 702 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016

38 Section 1(h) and 4

39 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

1 Chapter 715 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017
2 Section 2

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

5 **Article – Education**

6 **2–306.**

7 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “OUTREACH PROGRAM” MEANS A COMPREHENSIVE
8 RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE TOP 25%
9 OF HIGH SCHOOL ~~GRADUATES~~ STUDENTS FROM EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM TO
10 CONSIDER PURSUING A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL TEACHER’S CERTIFICATE.

11 (B) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH TEACHER PREPARATION
12 PROGRAMS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, COUNTY BOARDS, TEACHERS,
13 AND OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS, SHALL ESTABLISH ~~AN~~:

14 (1) AN OUTREACH PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT; AND

15 (2) A DIGITAL RECRUITMENT PLATFORM AIMED AT ENCOURAGING
16 INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER THE TEACHING PROFESSION IN MARYLAND.

17 (C) THE OUTREACH PROGRAM AND DIGITAL RECRUITMENT PLATFORM
18 SHALL MAKE USE OF A COMBINATION OF FREE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDIA AND PAID
19 MEDIA, ONLINE RESOURCES, E-MAIL, AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO IMPLEMENT A
20 STATEWIDE MARKETING CAMPAIGN TO:

21 (1) IMPROVE THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE TEACHING
22 PROFESSION AND ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO PURSUE A MARYLAND
23 PROFESSIONAL TEACHER’S CERTIFICATE BY:

24 (i) GATHERING CONTACT INFORMATION OF INTERESTED
25 INDIVIDUALS AND PROVIDING THE INDIVIDUALS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE
26 TEACHING PROFESSION;

27 (ii) ENGAGING PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS WITH MESSAGING
28 THAT CULTIVATES INTEREST IN THE PROFESSION;

29 (iii) CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS
30 TO COMMUNICATE WITH ROLE MODEL TEACHERS THROUGH A “TALK TO A
31 TEACHER” PROGRAM;

1 (IV) CONNECTING PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS WITH
2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDS-ON TEACHING EXPERIENCES;

3 (V) ASSISTING PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS IN LEARNING THE
4 CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR BECOMING A TEACHER; AND

5 (VI) CONNECTING PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS WITH TEACHER
6 PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE;
7 AND

8 (2) PROVIDE INFORMATION TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE
9 INCENTIVES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO PURSUE A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL
10 TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE, INCLUDING THE TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND
11 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 18, SUBTITLE 22 OF THIS
12 ARTICLE.

13 (D) (1) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE OUTREACH PROGRAM AND
14 DIGITAL RECRUITMENT PLATFORM SHALL FOCUS RECRUITMENT EFFORTS ON:

15 ~~(1)~~ (I) INDIVIDUALS FROM ETHNIC, RACIAL, GENDER, AND OTHER
16 DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS THAT ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE TEACHING
17 PROFESSION IN MARYLAND AND WITHIN TEACHER SHORTAGE FIELDS; AND

18 ~~(2)~~ (II) TEACHER SHORTAGE FIELDS IDENTIFIED BY THE
19 DEPARTMENT.

20 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH HISTORICALLY BLACK
21 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
22 SUBSECTION.

23 (3) THE OUTREACH PROGRAM AND DIGITAL RECRUITMENT
24 PLATFORM SHALL INCLUDE MARKETING EFFORTS TO COUNSELORS AND CAREER
25 CENTERS AT HIGH SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE
26 STATE.

27 (E) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE AT LEAST \$250,000 IN THE
28 ANNUAL STATE BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE
29 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

30 5-216.

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

1 (2) "INITIATIVE" MEANS THE MARYLAND EARLY LITERACY
2 INITIATIVE.

3 (3) "INTERVENTIONIST" MEANS A FULL-TIME, TRAINED
4 PROFESSIONAL WHOSE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO DELIVER EVIDENCE-BASED
5 EARLY LITERACY INTERVENTION.

6 (4) "LITERACY PROGRAM" MEANS A LITERACY PROGRAM
7 IMPLEMENTED BY AN INTERVENTIONIST.

8 (5) "NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION" MEANS A NONPROFIT
9 ORGANIZATION THAT:

10 (I) IS BASED IN THE STATE;

11 (II) IS INCORPORATED OR REGISTERED UNDER THE LAWS OF
12 THE STATE;

13 (III) IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX UNDER § 501(C)(3),
14 (4), OR (6) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE;

15 (IV) IS CURRENT IN THE PAYMENT OF ALL TAX OBLIGATIONS TO
16 THE STATE OR ANY UNIT OR SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE; AND

17 (V) HAS BEEN IN ACTIVE BUSINESS FOR 3 YEARS OR MORE AT
18 THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION.

19 (6) "PARTICIPATING STUDENT" MEANS A STUDENT:

20 (I) IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE; OR

21 (II) A STUDENT WHO PERFORMS BELOW A CERTAIN SCORE, AS
22 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, ON THE ASSESSMENT THE DEPARTMENT USES
23 TO ASSESS READING LEVEL.

24 (7) "QUALIFYING SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL CATEGORIZED
25 BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AS A TITLE I SCHOOL.

26 (B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVE IN THE
27 DEPARTMENT.

28 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE INITIATIVE IS TO ASSIST UP TO 50
29 QUALIFYING SCHOOLS, ~~IN COLLABORATION WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION,~~ TO
30 IMPLEMENT AN EVIDENCE-BASED LITERACY PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL TO WORK

1 WITH PARTICIPATING STUDENTS TO MEET LITERACY PROFICIENCY TARGETS BY THE
2 END OF EIGHTH GRADE OR OTHER LITERACY TARGETS AS DETERMINED BY THE
3 DEPARTMENT.

4 (3) THE INITIATIVE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN AT LEAST THREE
5 COUNTIES.

6 (4) THE INITIATIVE SHALL BE DEVELOPED AND ADMINISTERED BY
7 THE DEPARTMENT.

8 (C) (1) (I) ~~BEGINNING IN THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR~~ FOR THE
9 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, A QUALIFYING
10 SCHOOL, IN COLLABORATION WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, MAY APPLY TO
11 THE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE A GRANT FOR THE QUALIFYING SCHOOL TO
12 DEVELOP A LITERACY PROGRAM THAT IS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE
13 INITIATIVE.

14 (II) A QUALIFYING SCHOOL MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT ONLY IF
15 THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT ENDORSES THE SCHOOL'S GRANT APPLICATION.

16 (III) A QUALIFYING SCHOOL MAY COORDINATE AND PARTNER
17 WITH OTHER QUALIFYING SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY TO JOINTLY APPLY FOR A
18 GRANT TO DEVELOP A LITERACY PROGRAM AMONG THE PARTNERING QUALIFYING
19 SCHOOLS.

20 (IV) A COUNTY BOARD MAY APPLY ON BEHALF OF ONE OR MORE
21 QUALIFYING SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY.

22 (2) AN APPLICATION SHALL:

23 (I) ~~IDENTIFY THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT WILL~~
24 ~~WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE QUALIFYING SCHOOL~~ WHETHER THE
25 QUALIFYING SCHOOL WILL WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH A NONPROFIT
26 ORGANIZATION OR THE COUNTY BOARD TO IMPLEMENT THE LITERACY PROGRAM;

27 (II) PROVIDE THE NAME AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE
28 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, IF THE QUALIFYING SCHOOL WILL WORK IN
29 COLLABORATION WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION;

30 ~~(H)~~ (III) INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF:

31 1. THE LITERACY PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT
32 THE QUALIFYING SCHOOL; ~~AND~~

1 **2. THE TRAINING THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE**
2 **INTERVENTIONIST TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

3 **3. HOW THE LITERACY PROGRAM WILL MEET THE**
4 **REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

5 ~~(III)~~ **(IV) INCLUDE ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY**
6 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

7 **(3) IF THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF**
8 **AVAILABLE GRANTS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PRIORITY IN AWARDING**
9 **GRANTS TO A LITERACY PROGRAM WITH PARTICIPATING STUDENTS SERVING A**
10 **SCHOOL WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY IN**
11 **PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE.**

12 **(D) A LITERACY PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER THE INITIATIVE SHALL:**

13 **(1) PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF EARLY LITERACY INTERVENTION**
14 **SERVICES FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS;**

15 **(2) REQUIRE PARTICIPATING STUDENTS TO RECEIVE DIRECT**
16 **SERVICES AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK;**

17 **(3) HAVE CLEAR LITERACY TARGETS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL FOR**
18 **PARTICIPATING STUDENTS;**

19 **(4) HAVE BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS THREE TIMES A YEAR TO**
20 **IDENTIFY STUDENTS WHO NEED ONE-ON-ONE INTERVENTIONS; AND**

21 **(5) COLLECT DATA ON STUDENT PROGRESS AT LEAST MONTHLY.**

22 **(E) THE LITERACY PROGRAM DEVELOPED AT A QUALIFYING SCHOOL**
23 **UNDER THE INITIATIVE SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY STAFF HIRED AND SUPERVISED**
24 **BY THE COLLABORATING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR THE COUNTY BOARD.**

25 **(F) (1) (I) FOR FISCAL ~~YEAR~~ YEARS 2019 ~~AND EACH FISCAL YEAR~~**
26 **~~THEREAFTER~~ THROUGH 2022, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE IN THE**
27 **ANNUAL STATE BUDGET \$2,500,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE INITIATIVE.**

28 **(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY RETAIN UP TO 3% OF THE**
29 **APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO**
30 **HIRE STAFF NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE INITIATIVE.**

1 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE UP TO 50 GRANTS FOR A**
2 **2-YEAR PERIOD.**

3 **(3) A GRANT MADE TO EACH QUALIFYING SCHOOL MAY NOT EXCEED**
4 **\$50,000 EACH YEAR.**

5 **(4) A GRANT MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE RENEWED BY THE**
6 **DEPARTMENT AFTER A 2-YEAR PERIOD IF THE QUALIFYING SCHOOL PRESENTS**
7 **EVIDENCE THAT THE QUALIFYING SCHOOL IS:**

8 **(I) IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION; AND**

9 **(II) MEETING IDENTIFIED TARGETS AND BENCHMARKS.**

10 **(5) EACH QUALIFYING SCHOOL MAY APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT**
11 **DONATIONS, GRANTS, OR OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM A GOVERNMENTAL**
12 **ENTITY, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, OR ANY OTHER PRIVATE ORGANIZATION TO**
13 **BENEFIT THE LITERACY PROGRAM.**

14 **(G) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT**
15 **REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

16 **(H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, ~~2020~~ 2022, ~~AND EVERY 2 YEARS~~**
17 **~~THEREAFTER,~~ THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT AN EVIDENCE-BASED REPORT**
18 **SUMMARIZING THE STATUS OF EFFORTS UNDER THE INITIATIVE ~~DURING THE~~**
19 **~~2-YEAR GRANT PERIOD,~~ INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE**
20 **SUCCESS OF THE INITIATIVE, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
21 **§ 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE EDUCATION,**
22 **HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE**
23 **COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.**

24 7-101.2.

25 (a) (1) In this section the following terms have the meanings indicated.

26 (4) “Fund” means the Prekindergarten Expansion Fund.

27 (6) “Program” means the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program.

28 (b) (1) There is a grant program known as the Prekindergarten Expansion
29 Grant Program in the State.

30 (2) The purpose of the Program is to broaden the availability of
31 prekindergarten and school readiness services throughout the State for children and their
32 families in coordination with the following programs:

1 (i) The publicly funded prekindergarten program established under
2 § 7–101.1 of this article; and

3 (ii) The Judith P. Hoyer Early Childhood Education Enhancement
4 Program established under § 5–217 of this subtitle.

5 [(d) (1) Funds for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget.]

6 **(D) (1) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR**
7 **THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE TO THE FUND AN**
8 **AMOUNT THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL FUNDS RECEIVED**
9 **BY THE PROGRAM IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.**

10 (2) [The amount of State funds provided for the Program each fiscal year
11 shall be at least as much as was appropriated in the prior fiscal year.

12 (3)] The Governor may provide funds to the Department to administer the
13 Program.

14 (e) Grants awarded under this section may not be used:

15 (1) To supplant existing funding for prekindergarten services; or

16 (2) For capital improvements.

17 7–1702.

18 (a) There is a Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program.

19 7–1704.

20 (a) For fiscal year 2018, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an
21 appropriation of \$2,500,000 to the Program.

22 (b) **(1) For fiscal [years] YEAR 2019 [through 2021, the Governor shall include**
23 **in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$7,500,000 to the Program] AND EACH**
24 **FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL**
25 **BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF GRANT**
26 **AWARDS IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR \$3,000,000 TO THE PROGRAM.**

27 **(2) A GRANTEE THAT REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL**
28 **RECEIVE A GRANT IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE GRANT**
29 **AMOUNT IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.**

30 **SUBTITLE 20. LEARNING IN EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (LEAP).**

1 7-2001.

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

4 (B) "ELIGIBLE SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN WHICH AT LEAST ~~90%~~
5 80% OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR THE FEDERAL FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEAL
6 PROGRAM.

7 (C) "EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING" MEANS AN ACADEMIC
8 PROGRAM OFFERED BEFORE THE SCHOOL DAY, AFTER THE SCHOOL DAY, ON THE
9 WEEKEND, OR IN THE SUMMER FOR A SCHOOL WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF
10 STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE LIVING IN POVERTY AND AT
11 RISK OF FALLING BEHIND ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.

12 (D) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE LEARNING IN EXTENDED ACADEMIC
13 PROGRAMS (LEAP) GRANT PROGRAM.

14 7-2002.

15 (A) THERE IS A LEARNING IN EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (LEAP)
16 GRANT PROGRAM.

17 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE A GRANT TO AN
18 ELIGIBLE SCHOOL TO PROVIDE EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING THAT HAS A
19 POSITIVE MEASURABLE IMPACT ON OR ENRICHES THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
20 AND OVERALL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS WHO ARE AT RISK OF FALLING BEHIND
21 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.

22 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY A COUNTY BOARD WITH THE NAMES
23 OF SCHOOLS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM.

24 (D) (1) (I) AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT TO
25 RECEIVE A GRANT TO DEVELOP EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING THAT IS IN
26 FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM.

27 (II) AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT ONLY IF
28 THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT ENDORSES THE SCHOOL'S GRANT APPLICATION.

29 (III) AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL MAY COORDINATE AND PARTNER
30 WITH OTHER ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY TO JOINTLY APPLY FOR A GRANT
31 TO DEVELOP EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING AMONG THE PARTNERING
32 ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS.

1 **(IV) A COUNTY BOARD MAY APPLY ON BEHALF OF ONE OR MORE**
2 **ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY.**

3 **(2) THE APPLICATION SHALL PROVIDE A DETAILED PLAN FOR**
4 **PROVIDING EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING.**

5 **(3) (I) AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH A NONPROFIT**
6 **ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING.**

7 **(II) IF AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH A NONPROFIT**
8 **ORGANIZATION, THE APPLICATION SHALL PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE**
9 **ORGANIZATION AND THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE THE**
10 **EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING.**

11 **7-2003.**

12 **(A) AN EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE BEFORE OR AFTER**
13 **SCHOOL, WEEKEND, OR SUMMER PROGRAMS TARGETED TO STUDENTS WHO ARE AT**
14 **RISK OF FALLING BEHIND ON ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.**

15 **(B) (1) IF AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL PROPOSES A SUMMER PROGRAM, THE**
16 **LENGTH OF THE DAILY PROGRAM SHALL BE AT LEAST 4 HOURS FOR A MINIMUM OF**
17 **30 DAYS.**

18 **(2) IF AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL PROPOSES A WEEKEND PROGRAM, THE**
19 **LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AT LEAST 4 HOURS DURING THE WEEKEND.**

20 **(3) IF AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL PROPOSES A BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL**
21 **PROGRAM, THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE AT LEAST 8 HOURS OF ACADEMIC**
22 **PROGRAMMING EACH FULL WEEK THAT SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.**

23 **7-2004.**

24 **(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW APPLICATIONS TO ENSURE**
25 **THAT THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE PROGRAM ARE MET.**

26 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO ACCOUNT**
27 **FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN COUNTIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE UNITED STATES**
28 **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION.**

29 **(B) IF SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO FUND ALL QUALIFYING**
30 **APPLICATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE AWARDED GRANTS TO**
31 **APPLICANTS ~~THAT PROVIDE EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING TO STUDENTS IN~~**

1 ~~KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE~~ WITH THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF
2 STUDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE, AND
3 ENSURE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG THE GRANTEES.

4 **7-2005.**

5 (A) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR
6 THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN
7 APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST ~~\$5,000,000~~ \$4,500,000 TO THE PROGRAM.

8 (B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY RETAIN UP TO 3% OF THE APPROPRIATION
9 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION TO HIRE STAFF NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE
10 PROGRAM.

11 **7-2006.**

12 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2018, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
13 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVE A
14 GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM, SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE
16 EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE
17 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
18 PROGRAM, INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMS
19 AND SERVICES FUNDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

20 18-2201.

21 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (b) "Eligible institution" means a:

23 (1) Public senior higher education institution in the State that possesses a
24 certificate of approval from the Commission and has a department, school, or college of
25 education; or

26 (2) Private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that
27 possesses a certificate of approval from the Commission, has a department, school, or
28 college of education, and agrees to provide a matching grant to an undergraduate or
29 graduate student, as appropriate, who receives a Teaching Fellows for Maryland
30 scholarship in the lesser of:

31 (i) 100% of the annual cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the
32 University of Maryland, College Park Campus; or

1 (ii) 50% of the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the private
2 nonprofit institution of higher education.

3 (c) "Office" means the Office of Student Financial Assistance as defined in §
4 18–101(c) of this title.

5 (d) (1) "Service obligation" means to teach full time in the State as a teacher
6 in a Maryland public school or a public prekindergarten program that has at least 50% of
7 its students eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM).

8 (2) "Service obligation" does not mean employment as teaching assistants,
9 volunteer service, paid fellowships, or internships.

10 18–2202.

11 There is a program of Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarships that are awarded
12 under this subtitle for students who pledge to work as public school or public
13 prekindergarten teachers in the State upon completion of their studies at schools that have
14 at least 50% of the students in the school eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM).

15 18–2203.

16 (a) The Office shall annually select eligible students and offer a scholarship to
17 each student selected to be used at an eligible institution of their choice.

18 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a recipient of the Teaching
19 Fellows for Maryland scholarship shall:

20 (i) Be a Maryland resident or have graduated from a Maryland high
21 school;

22 (ii) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, be accepted
23 for admission or currently enrolled at an eligible institution as a full–time or part–time
24 undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a course of study or program in an academic
25 discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

26 (iii) **1. HAVE ACHIEVED AT LEAST:**

27 [1.] **A.** For a student currently enrolled in high school,
28 [have earned] an overall grade point average of [at least] 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent
29 after completion of the first semester of the senior year; [or]

30 [2.] **B.** For a student currently enrolled as a full–time
31 undergraduate student, [have maintained] a **CUMULATIVE** grade point average of [at
32 least] 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and [have been making] satisfactory progress toward a degree in
33 an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;

1 [(iv) Have achieved a score of at least:]

2 [1.] C. A SCORE OF 500 on the reading and math portions
3 of the SAT, with a combined score of at least 1100 on the reading and math portions of the
4 SAT;

5 [2.] D. A composite ACT score of 25; or

6 [3.] E. A SCORE OF 50% on the GRE; AND

7 2. HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN EXCEPTIONAL
8 DEDICATION TO OR APTITUDE FOR TEACHING;

9 [(v)] (IV) Sign a letter of intent to perform the service obligation
10 upon completion of the recipient's required studies;

11 [(vi)] (V) Accept any other conditions attached to the award; and

12 [(vii)] (VI) Satisfy any additional criteria the Commission may
13 establish.

14 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, an individual who,
15 at the time the individual is scheduled to matriculate at an eligible institution, will have
16 been employed as a teaching assistant at a public school or public prekindergarten program
17 in the State for at least 2 years:

18 (i) May apply for a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship
19 under this subtitle; and

20 (ii) Is eligible to hold a Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship
21 as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.

22 (3) A RECIPIENT OF THE TEACHING FELLOWS FOR MARYLAND
23 SCHOLARSHIP MAY BE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ENROLLED OR PLANS TO ENROLL AT
24 AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AS A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE OR
25 GRADUATE STUDENT WHO:

26 (I) CHANGES MAJORS TO PURSUE A COURSE OF STUDY OR
27 PROGRAM IN AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE LEADING TO A MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL
28 TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE; OR

29 (II) SEEKS TO CHANGE CAREERS TO PURSUE A COURSE OF
30 STUDY OR PROGRAM IN AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE LEADING TO A MARYLAND
31 PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE.

1 (c) A recipient of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may not hold a
2 Maryland professional teacher's certificate.

3 (d) (1) Applicants who are secondary school students shall provide a high
4 school transcript after completion of the first semester of their senior year.

5 (2) Applicants who are currently enrolled in an eligible institution shall
6 provide the most recent college transcript, or if not applicable, the applicant may submit a
7 final high school transcript.

8 (3) Applicants who are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but
9 who are high school graduates, shall provide a final high school transcript.

10 (4) Applicants who are high school graduates and are not currently
11 enrolled in an eligible institution, but have completed some courses at an eligible
12 institution, shall provide the most recent college transcript.

13 (5) Applicants who are not currently enrolled in an eligible institution, but
14 who are college graduates, shall provide a final college transcript.

15 18-2204.

16 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the recipient of a Teaching
17 Fellows for Maryland scholarship shall repay the Commission the funds received as set
18 forth in § 18-112 of this title if the recipient does not:

19 (1) Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible course of study or
20 program or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle;

21 (2) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, perform the service obligation
22 to teach in a public school or a public prekindergarten program that has at least 50% of its
23 students eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM) for **A PERIOD OF:**

24 **(I) FOR A RECIPIENT WHO RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AS AN**
25 **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, 1 year for each year that the recipient has a scholarship**
26 **awarded under this subtitle; and**

27 **(II) FOR A RECIPIENT WHO RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AS A**
28 **GRADUATE STUDENT, AT LEAST 2 YEARS; AND**

29 (3) Become professionally certified to teach in the State of Maryland within
30 the time period specified by the Commission in consultation with the Maryland Department
31 of Education.

32 (b) If a recipient is unable to perform the service obligation required under this
33 subtitle because there are no available positions in a public school or public

1 prekindergarten program that has at least 50% of its students eligible for free or reduced
2 price meals (FRPM), the recipient may work in any public school or public prekindergarten
3 program in the State.

4 (c) The Office shall forgive a recipient of a Teaching Fellows for Maryland
5 scholarship for 2 years of an award if:

6 (1) The recipient has taken the teacher certification examination, approved
7 by the State Board of Education, in 2 consecutive years; and

8 (2) The recipient fails to pass the teacher certification examination within
9 the time period specified by the Commission in accordance with subsection (a)(3) of this
10 section.

11 18–2205.

12 (a) The annual scholarship award shall be:

13 (1) At a public senior higher education institution in the State that has a
14 department, school, or college of education, 100% of the equivalent annual tuition,
15 mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate
16 student, as appropriate, at the public senior higher education institution; or

17 (2) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, at a private nonprofit
18 institution of higher education in the State that has a department, school, or college of
19 education, an amount equal to:

20 (i) The lesser of:

21 1. 100% of the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees
22 of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the University
23 of Maryland, College Park Campus; or

24 2. 50% of the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees
25 of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, at the eligible private
26 nonprofit institution of higher education; and

27 (ii) 100% of the room and board of a resident undergraduate student
28 or graduate student, as appropriate, at the eligible private nonprofit institution of higher
29 education in the State.

30 (b) A private nonprofit institution of higher education shall provide a matching
31 scholarship award in an amount equal to the award calculated in subsection (a)(2)(i) of this
32 section.

33 18–2206.

1 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each recipient of a
2 Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may renew the award three times if the
3 recipient:

4 (1) Continues to be a resident of the State or graduated from a high school
5 in the State;

6 (2) Continues to be a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate
7 student at an eligible institution as determined by the Office;

8 (3) Has achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 on a 4.0
9 scale and maintains this minimum cumulative grade point average throughout the
10 remainder of this award, or failing to do so, provides evidence of extenuating circumstances;

11 (4) In the judgment of the institution, is making satisfactory progress
12 toward a degree; and

13 (5) Maintains the standards of the institution.

14 (b) Each recipient of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may renew
15 the annual award four times if the recipient is enrolled in a course of study that, as
16 determined by the institution, requires 5 years to complete.

17 18-2207.

18 A Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship may be used for tuition, mandatory
19 fees, and room and board at any eligible institution.

20 18-2208.

21 If an eligible institution has enrolled at least 15 recipients of a Teaching Fellows for
22 Maryland scholarship, the eligible institution shall develop and implement an enriched
23 honors program of education that is responsive to exceptional dedication and merit-based
24 accomplishment in the study of education and preparation for the teaching profession.

25 18-2209.

26 The Governor annually shall include [funds] **AT LEAST \$2,000,000** in the State
27 budget for the Commission to award scholarships under this subtitle.

28 18-2210.

29 The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall:

30 (1) Publicize the availability of Teaching Fellows for Maryland
31 scholarships; and

(2) To the extent practicable, award scholarships under this subtitle in a manner that reflects ethnic, gender, racial, and geographic diversity.

21-205.

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

(2) "CTE" MEANS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

(3) "GRANT" MEANS THE CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION INNOVATION GRANT.

(B) (1) THERE IS A CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION INNOVATION GRANT.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT IS TO PROVIDE FUNDS ~~TO COUNTY BOARDS~~ TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CTE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK AND PATHWAY THAT IS INNOVATIVE AND INCLUDES BEST PRACTICES THAT ARE USED BY THE BEST CTE PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT.

(C) (1) (i) A COUNTY BOARD OR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE A GRANT FOR A CTE ~~PROGRAM~~ PATHWAY THAT IS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT.

(ii) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT, A COUNTY BOARD AN APPLICATION SHALL FORM IDENTIFY A PARTNERSHIP WITH A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND AN INDUSTRY PARTNER IN DEVELOPING AN INNOVATIVE CTE PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM AT LEAST ONE COUNTY BOARD, ONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND ONE INDUSTRY PARTNER TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE CTE PATHWAY THAT:

1. IS OF HIGH QUALITY;
2. IS ALIGNED WITH THE SKILLS NEEDED BY EMPLOYERS;
3. WILL LEAD TO AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE;
4. CREATES INTERNSHIP OR APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES; AND

1 **5. PREPARES STUDENTS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE**
2 **IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY.**

3 **(2) AN APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:**

4 **(I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED CURRICULUM**
5 **FRAMEWORK AND PATHWAY THAT IS ARTICULATED BETWEEN SECONDARY AND**
6 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING;**

7 **(II) A BUSINESS PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE ESTIMATED TOTAL**
8 **COST, INCLUDING ANY ONE-TIME OR CAPITAL EQUIPPING COSTS, OF**
9 **IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK AND PATHWAY; AND**

10 **(III) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE**
11 **DEPARTMENT.**

12 **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH PROCESSES AND**
13 **PROCEDURES FOR ACCEPTING AND EVALUATING APPLICATIONS.**

14 **(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AWARDS IN A TIMELY FASHION.**

15 **(D) (1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE AT LEAST**
16 **\$2,000,000 IN THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE GRANT**
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY RETAIN UP TO 3% OF THE**
19 **APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO HIRE STAFF NECESSARY**
20 **TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 **Chapter 701 of the Acts of 2016**

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23 That:

24 (a) (1) There is a Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

25 (2) The Commission shall review the findings of the Study on Adequacy of
26 Funding for Education in the State of Maryland that is to be completed on or before
27 December 1, 2016, and provide recommendations on preparing students in the State to
28 meet the challenges of a changing global economy, to meet the State's workforce needs, to
29 be prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce, and to be successful citizens in
30 the 21st century.

31 (h) (1) On or before December 31, 2016, the Commission shall provide a
32 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance

1 with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and
2 Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House
3 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee.

4 (2) On or before December 31, [2017] **2018**, the Commission shall provide
5 a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with
6 § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and
7 Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House
8 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee.

9 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
10 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] **3** years and, at the end of May 31, [2018]
11 **2019**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated
12 and of no further force and effect.

13 Chapter 702 of the Acts of 2016

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That:

16 (a) (1) There is a Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

17 (2) The Commission shall review the findings of the Study on Adequacy of
18 Funding for Education in the State of Maryland that is to be completed on or before
19 December 1, 2016, and provide recommendations on preparing students in the State to
20 meet the challenges of a changing global economy, to meet the State's workforce needs, to
21 be prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce, and to be successful citizens in
22 the 21st century.

23 (h) (1) On or before December 31, 2016, the Commission shall provide a
24 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance
25 with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and
26 Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House
27 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee.

28 (2) On or before December 31, [2017] **2018**, the Commission shall provide
29 a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with
30 § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and
31 Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House
32 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee.

33 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
34 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] **3** years and, at the end of May 31, [2018]
35 **2019**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated
36 and of no further force and effect.

Chapter 715 of the Acts of 2017

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) (1) On or before [July] **SEPTEMBER** 1, 2018, the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Legislative Services, shall contract with a public or private entity to conduct an independent study of the individualized education program (IEP) process in the State, including the procedures relating to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of a child, the provision of a free and appropriate education, and the dispute resolution procedures provided under § 8–413 of the Education Article.

(2) The entity that conducts the study shall seek input from special education teachers, special education advocates, and special education organizations.

(b) At a minimum, the study shall:

(1) review and assess how local school systems spend their special education funds and allocate their teaching and family support services staff;

(2) review and assess the effectiveness of special education family support services provided by local school system staff members;

(3) review and assess how local school systems utilize technical assistance provided by the State Department of Education to local school systems to assist parents in understanding their rights and responsibilities in the IEP process;

(4) identify best practices for retaining special education teachers;

(5) identify and highlight the best practices currently utilized by the State Department of Education staff, local system staff, and other State agency staff as part of the IEP process in the State; [and]

(6) REVIEW AND ASSESS METHODOLOGIES USED BY TOP-PERFORMING COUNTRIES TO ESTIMATE THE COSTS OF PROVIDING AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION TO STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION;

(7) REVIEW AND ASSESS METHODOLOGIES USED AND CONSIDERED BY STATES THAT USE A SPECIAL EDUCATION WEIGHT FOR ESTIMATING THE COSTS OF AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION, INCLUDING WHETHER THE STATES USE:

(I) SINGLE OR MULTIPLE WEIGHTS;

(II) A WEIGHT BASED ON INDIVIDUAL OR CLUSTERS OF DISABILITIES; OR

1 **(III) A WEIGHT BASED ON LEVELS OF SEVERITY AMONG**
2 **DISABILITIES;**

3 **(8) REVIEW AND ASSESS AVAILABLE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL**
4 **DATA AND STUDIES ON THE CURRENT COSTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ACROSS THE**
5 **SPECTRUM OF DISABILITIES AND LEVELS OF SEVERITY; AND**

6 **[(6)] (9)** make recommendations for:

7 (i) ensuring that special education funds are being spent cost
8 effectively;

9 (ii) ensuring that local school systems are effectively allocating their
10 teaching and family support services staff to improve the education achievement of special
11 education students;

12 (iii) clarifying and simplifying the IEP process to enable parents and
13 guardians to more easily understand their rights and responsibilities in the process; **[and]**

14 (iv) modifying the administrative goals, objectives, and strategies of
15 teachers and IEP teams to make them more efficient and cost effective in their delivery of
16 services to special education students, including potential reductions in caseloads and
17 recordkeeping;

18 **(V) THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FUNDING THAT IS ADEQUATE**
19 **FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN MARYLAND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRIMARY**
20 **AND SECONDARY STATE EDUCATION FORMULAS; AND**

21 **(VI) ANY WEIGHTS THAT MAY CORRESPOND WITH THE**
22 **RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF FUNDING THAT SHOULD BE USED FOR STUDENTS IN**
23 **SPECIAL EDUCATION IN THE FORMULAS AND THE RATIONALES FOR SELECTING A**
24 **SPECIFIC WEIGHT.**

25 (c) The Governor shall include sufficient funds in the State budget for the
26 appropriate fiscal years for the State Department of Education to cover the costs of
27 conducting the study.

28 (d) On or before **[July] SEPTEMBER 1, 2019**, the State Department of Education
29 shall report the findings and recommendations of the study, in accordance with § 2-1246
30 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

31 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June**
32 **1, 2018.**