

# SENATE BILL 998

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By: **Senators Peters, Benson, Currie, Feldman, Guzzone, King, Madaleno, and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education – REAL School Gardens Pilot Program –**  
3 **Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the REAL School Gardens Pilot Program; specifying the  
5 purpose of the Program; requiring certain counties to implement the Program;  
6 requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Program in  
7 coordination with REAL School Gardens; requiring the Governor’s proposed budget  
8 for a certain fiscal year to appropriate a certain amount to the Department to be used  
9 only for the Program; requiring the Department to obtain the services of an  
10 independent third party to conduct a certain review on or before a certain date;  
11 requiring the Department to submit the results of the review to the Governor and  
12 the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department, in  
13 coordination with REAL School Gardens, to prepare a certain progress report for  
14 certain years of the Program; specifying the contents of the progress report; requiring  
15 the Department to submit the progress report to the Governor and the General  
16 Assembly on or before certain dates; defining a certain term; providing for the  
17 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the REAL School Gardens Pilot  
18 Program.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Education

21 Section 7–125

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Education**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **7-125.**

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE REAL SCHOOL GARDENS  
3 PILOT PROGRAM.

4 (B) THERE IS A REAL SCHOOL GARDENS PILOT PROGRAM.

5 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:

6 (1) DESIGN AND BUILD CUSTOM OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS AT TITLE I  
7 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS; AND

8 (2) TRAIN TEACHERS IN THE USE OF OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS.

9 (D) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED IN:

10 (1) ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;

11 (2) HOWARD COUNTY;

12 (3) MONTGOMERY COUNTY; AND

13 (4) PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

14 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN  
15 COORDINATION WITH REAL SCHOOL GARDENS.

16 (F) THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 SHALL  
17 APPROPRIATE \$200,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE  
18 PROGRAM.

19 (G) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL OBTAIN  
20 THE SERVICES OF AN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY TO REVIEW THE EFFECTIVENESS  
21 AND SUCCESS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROGRAM.

22 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
23 SUBMIT THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
24 SUBSECTION TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE  
25 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

26 (H) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH REAL SCHOOL  
27 GARDENS, SHALL PREPARE A PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD  
28 YEARS OF THE PROGRAM.

1           **(2) THE PROGRESS REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**  
2 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF:**

3                   **(I) THE PROGRAM'S EXPENDITURES FOR THE PREVIOUS**  
4 **FISCAL YEAR;**

5                   **(II) THE PROGRAM'S TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE;**

6                   **(III) THE PROGRAM'S IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING; AND**

7                   **(IV) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHERS' USE OF OUTDOOR**  
8 **CLASSROOMS.**

9           **(3) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECEMBER 31, 2022,**  
10 **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT THE PROGRESS REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND,**  
11 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE**  
12 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
14 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2023,  
15 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
16 of no further force and effect.