

HOUSE BILL 678

F1

2lr1529

By: **Delegate Guyton**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Fine Arts – Curriculum Requirement, Study, and Report**
3 **(Arts Equity in Education Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring county boards of education to require public schools to provide
5 a certain instructional program in fine arts beginning in a certain school year;
6 requiring the State Department of Education to study and make recommendations
7 regarding compliance with a certain regulation relating to instructional programs in
8 fine arts; stating the intent of the General Assembly that certain provisions of the
9 Act are to be applied and interpreted as codifying a certain minimum standard of
10 instructional programming in fine arts in accordance with a certain regulation; and
11 generally relating to instructional programs in public primary and secondary
12 schools.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Education

15 Section 4–111.5

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 **4–111.5.**

22 **(A) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BEGINNING IN**
23 **THE 2022–2023 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC**
24 **SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE AN INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM IN THE FINE**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 ART FORMS OF, AT MINIMUM, DANCE, MEDIA ARTS, MUSIC, THEATER, AND VISUAL
2 ART.

3 (2) FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
4 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE EXPERIENCE-BASED.

5 (B) THE FINE ARTS COURSES SHALL BE OF HIGH QUALITY AND MEET OR
6 EXCEED THE CURRICULUM STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTY
7 BOARDS AND THE DEPARTMENT IN EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2022.

8 (C) (1) (I) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2026, THE
9 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF
10 \$25,000,000 TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

11 (II) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
12 THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN
13 AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

14 (2) FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE
15 SUPPLEMENTAL TO, AND MAY NOT SUPPLANT, FUNDS OTHERWISE APPROPRIATED
16 TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE BUDGET.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

18 (a) The State Department of Education shall, with respect to COMAR
19 13A.04.16.01:

20 (1) evaluate whether each local school system is in compliance with the
21 requirements of the regulation, which requires that each local school system provide to
22 students instruction in the fine art forms of dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual
23 art;

24 (2) if a local school system is not in compliance with regulations, identify:

25 (i) the reason, if any, for noncompliance; and

26 (ii) if the noncompliance is due to a lack of funding, the amount of
27 funding needed to ensure compliance; and

28 (3) make recommendations to improve compliance with the regulation,
29 including:

30 (i) any statutory or regulatory changes; and

31 (ii) any funding necessary.

1 (b) On or before July 31, 2023, the State Department of Education shall submit
2 its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of
3 the State Government Article.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General
5 Assembly that Section 1 of this Act be applied and interpreted as codifying a statewide
6 minimum standard for instructional programming in fine arts in accordance with the
7 requirements of COMAR 13A.04.16.01.

8 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2022.