

HOUSE BILL 950

F1

2lr1167

By: **Delegates Kittleman, Boteler, Buckel, Krebs, McComas, Reilly, Rose, Shoemaker, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Civics Education Award Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Civics Education Award Program to provide monetary
4 awards to public school students in a certain grade who achieve a certain score on
5 the civics portion of the naturalization test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and
6 Immigration Services; and generally relating to the Civics Education Award
7 Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–129

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7–129.**

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

19 **(2) “CIVICS TEST” MEANS THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE**
20 **NATURALIZATION TEST ADMINISTERED BY THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND**
21 **IMMIGRATION SERVICES.**

22 **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE CIVICS EDUCATION AWARD PROGRAM.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) (1) THERE IS A CIVICS EDUCATION AWARD PROGRAM.**

2 **(2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

3 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO AWARD \$1,000 TO PUBLIC**
4 **SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADE 12 WHO ACHIEVE A HIGH SCORE ON THE CIVICS TEST.**

5 **(D) (1) A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT IN GRADE 12 IS ELIGIBLE TO**
6 **PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.**

7 **(2) A STUDENT MAY NOT TAKE THE CIVICS TEST MORE THAN TWICE**
8 **AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE PROGRAM.**

9 **(E) (1) BEGINNING IN CALENDAR YEAR 2023, EACH COUNTY BOARD**
10 **SHALL OFFER THE CIVICS TEST EACH YEAR TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT IN**
11 **GRADE 12.**

12 **(2) ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2022–2023 SCHOOL YEAR,**
13 **THE STATE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE MEANS OF PROVIDING EACH HIGH**
14 **SCHOOL STUDENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE CIVICS TEST REQUIRED UNDER**
15 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

16 **(F) EACH YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL COMPILE A LIST OF THE**
17 **PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADE 12 WHO ANSWER CORRECTLY AT LEAST 90%**
18 **OF THE QUESTIONS ON THE CIVICS TEST.**

19 **(G) (1) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2023, AND EACH MARCH 31**
20 **THEREAFTER, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD THE LIST**
21 **COMPILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.**

22 **(2) EACH YEAR, IN A PUBLIC FORUM, THE STATE BOARD SHALL**
23 **SELECT AT RANDOM 40 STUDENTS FROM THE LIST OF NAMES SUBMITTED IN**
24 **ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

25 **(3) THE STATE BOARD SHALL AWARD \$1,000 TO EACH STUDENT**
26 **SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

27 **(H) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE AWARDS MADE**
28 **UNDER THIS SECTION.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2022.