A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Calvert County – Civic Education – Standards and Curriculum
(Social Studies Literacy Act)

FOR the purpose of requiring the United States government course taught in high schools in Calvert County to include a certain unit beginning in a certain school year; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt certain civic education standards, approve certain civic education curriculum, and curate certain oral history resources; requiring the Calvert County Board of Education to establish a certain civic education curriculum; and generally relating to civic education in Calvert County.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 7–129
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7–129.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN CALVERT COUNTY.

(B) BEGINNING IN THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COURSE TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY SHALL INCLUDE A UNIT ON COMPARATIVE POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES THAT DISCUSSES IDEOLOGIES THAT CONFLICT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY THAT ARE
essential to the founding principles of the United States, including communism and totalitarianism.

(C) To assist families, civic institutions, local communities, and public schools, including charter schools, in Calvert County prepare students to be civically responsible and knowledgeable adults, the State Board shall:

(1) adopt age-appropriate civic education standards that must be incorporated into the social studies curriculum at every grade level;

(2) approve the curriculum to implement civic education standards established by the county board in accordance with subsection (d) of this section; and

(3) curate oral history resources to be used with the civic education curriculum that provide portraits in patriotism based on the personal stories of diverse individuals who have demonstrated civic-minded qualities, including first-person accounts of victims of the governing ideologies of other nations who can compare those ideologies with that of the United States.

(D) (1) The county board shall establish a curriculum for the civic education standards adopted by the State Board under subsection (c) of this section.

(2) The civic education curriculum shall assist students in developing:

(i) an understanding of shared rights and responsibilities of residents of the State;

(ii) an understanding of the fundamental principles of the United States;

(iii) a sense of civic pride and desire to regularly participate as citizens with government at the local, State, and federal levels;

(iv) an understanding of the process for effectively advocating before governmental bodies and officials; and
(V) An understanding of the civic-minded expectations of an upright and desirable citizenry that recognizes and accepts responsibility for preserving and defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured by the United States Constitution.

(3) The county board shall submit the civic education curriculum to the State Board for approval before implementing the curriculum.

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