A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – Low–Density Calculation – Mandated Funding

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation in an amount equal to the low–density calculation for certain counties that meet certain population density and full–time equivalent student enrollment limitations; and generally relating to mandated funding for counties with low density and a low student enrollment count.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 5–243
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

5–243.

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

(2) “ELIGIBLE COUNTY” MEANS A COUNTY WITH:

(I) A POPULATION DENSITY AMOUNT LESS THAN 100; AND

(II) A FULL–TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT OF FEWER THAN

2,000 STUDENTS.
(3) “LOW–DENSITY CALCULATION” means the full–time equivalent enrollment for a county multiplied by the product of the per pupil amount and the total square miles in the county.

(4) “PER PUPIL AMOUNT” means:

(I) In fiscal year 2024, $0.43;

(II) In fiscal year 2025, $1.06;

(III) In fiscal year 2026, $1.27;

(IV) In fiscal year 2027, $2.34;

(V) In fiscal year 2028, $3.61;

(VI) In fiscal year 2029, $4.67;

(VII) In fiscal year 2030, $5.95;

(VIII) In fiscal year 2031, $7.22; and

(ix) For subsequent fiscal years, the per pupil amount for the prior fiscal year increased by $0.85.

(5) “POPULATION DENSITY AMOUNT” means the total county population divided by the square miles in the county.

(B) Beginning in fiscal year 2024, for each eligible county, the governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation in an amount equal to the low–density calculation for the county.

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