SENATE BILL 756

By: Senator Hester
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

University System of Maryland – County School Technology Pilot Program – Established

FOR the purpose of establishing the County School Technology Pilot Program, implemented and administered by the University System of Maryland, to identify opportunities to apply computer–based analytical approaches to county school redistricting processes; and generally relating to the County School Technology Pilot Program.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 12–124
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

12–124.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE COUNTY SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) (1) THERE IS A COUNTY SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

(2) (i) THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(II) The University System of Maryland may coordinate with the following institutions and programs to implement and administer the Program:

1. The Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center;
2. The Maryland Transportation Institute;
3. The Regional Economic Studies Institute; and
4. Smart Growth Maryland.

(3) The University System of Maryland shall provide the following personnel to the Program:

(i) A project manager with experience in State planning; and

(ii) A database engineer with experience in:

1. GIS software and GIS queries; or
2. SQL programming and queries.

(C) (1) The purpose of the Program is to review the Howard County school redistricting process in order to:

(i) Identify opportunities to apply computer–based analytical processes for more efficient school redistricting that are not subject to personal or political influence; and

(ii) To the extent practicable, predict the number of prekindergarten seats that will be needed within the following 3 years.

(2) A county board of education may use results obtained through the Program in the county’s school redistricting processes.

(D) In fiscal year 2024, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of $200,000 for the Program.
(E) On or before June 30 each year, beginning in 2024 through 2028, the University System of Maryland shall report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the following information for the immediately preceding school year:

1. Data resources and methodologies used;
2. A future trend analysis;
3. A fiscal analysis; and
4. If Howard County initiates a school redistricting process, a comparative redistricting analysis including effectiveness and efficiencies gained.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.