

SENATE BILL 271

F1

3lr1319

By: Senator Ready

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Maryland Civic Engagement Excellence Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Civic Engagement Excellence Program as a
4 voluntary program in which local school systems may participate to recognize
5 students and public schools that promote the civic readiness and civic engagement
6 of students in public schools in the State; and generally relating to the establishment
7 of the Maryland Civic Engagement Excellence Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 4-142

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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 **4-142.**

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND CIVIC
18 ENGAGEMENT EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE
2 PROGRAM.

3 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS
4 AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT PROMOTE THE CIVIC READINESS AND CIVIC
5 ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

6 (C) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION APPLY ONLY TO A LOCAL SCHOOL
7 SYSTEM THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

8 (D) EACH BEGINNING WITH THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH
9 PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL:

10 (1) AWARD A STUDENT A SEAL OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE
11 IF THE STUDENT APPLIES AND MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE LOCAL
12 SCHOOL SYSTEM UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND

13 (2) DESIGNATE A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS A CENTER OF CIVIC
14 ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE IF THE SCHOOL APPLIES AND MEETS THE CRITERIA
15 ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (E) (1) AT MINIMUM, A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM'S
17 CRITERIA FOR A SEAL OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE SHALL REQUIRE A
18 STUDENT TO OBTAIN FOUR TOTAL POINTS UNDER THE PROGRAM BY EARNING AT
19 LEAST ONE POINT FROM AT LEAST FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

20 (I) CIVICS-BASED ASSESSMENTS;

21 (II) SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES;

22 (III) STUDENT SERVICE;

23 (IV) VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES;

24 (V) SCHOOL-BASED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES;

25 (VI) NONSCHOOL-RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES;
26 AND

27 (VII) VOTER REGISTRATION.

28 (2) A STUDENT MAY EARN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT POINTS UNDER THE
29 PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS:

2. THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT:

B. UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAMINATION; OR

1. UNITED STATES HISTORY;

2. MODERN WORLD HISTORY; AND

3. AMERICAN GOVERNMENT;

16 (III) ONE POINT FOR COMPLETING AT LEAST 120 HOURS OF
17 STUDENT SERVICE OF WHICH:

22 (IV) ONE POINT FOR PARTICIPATING AS A VOLUNTEER IN AN
23 ~~ELECTION CAMPAIGN~~, A VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITY, OR A PEACEFUL
24 DEMONSTRATION;

1. THAT IS A NONSCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITY:

2. FOR A PERIOD OF TIME DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL

3. WITH DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION:

1 (v) UP TO THREE POINTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A
2 SCHOOL-BASED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING:

2. RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS;

6 3. MOCK TRIAL;

4. A LAW ACADEMY PROGRAM;

7. NATIONAL HISTORY CLUB;

12 8. DEBATE CLUB;

9. WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION;

(vi) UP TO TWO POINTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A
NONSCHOOL-RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING:

- 1 4. **TAKING FLIGHT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL;**
- 2 5. **MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL;**
- 3 6. **POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION CLUBS;**
- 4 7. **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY; OR**
- 5 8. **ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION, PROGRAM, OR ACTIVITY**
- 6 **APPROVED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND**

7 **(VII) ONE POINT FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE WHEN ELIGIBLE.**

8 **(F) AT MINIMUM, A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM'S CRITERIA**
9 **FOR A CENTER OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION SHALL**
10 **REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO HAVE AT LEAST ~~75%~~ 50% OF THE STUDENTS IN ITS**
11 **GRADUATING CLASS WHO HAVE EARNED A SEAL OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~**
12 **EXCELLENCE.**

13 **(G) (1) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT DETERMINES A STUDENT HAS**
14 **FULFILLED THE CRITERIA UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

15 **(I) AWARD THE STUDENT A SEAL OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~**
16 **EXCELLENCE;**

17 **(II) RECORD THE AWARD ON THE STUDENT'S OFFICIAL HIGH**
18 **SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT; AND**

19 **(III) RECOGNIZE THE AWARD BY ATTACHING A CORD, MEDAL, OR**
20 **OTHER INSIGNIA ON THE STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.**

21 **(2) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT DETERMINES THAT A PUBLIC**
22 **SCHOOL HAS FULFILLED THE CRITERIA UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

23 **(I) DESIGNATE THE SCHOOL AS A CENTER OF CIVIC**
24 **~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE; AND**

25 **(II) RECOGNIZE THE DESIGNATION BY PROVIDING ANY OF THE**
26 **FOLLOWING:**

- 27 1. **A BANNER;**
- 28 2. **A GOVERNOR'S CITATION; OR**
- 29 3. **A CITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.**

1 **(H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, EACH**
2 **PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A**
3 **REPORT ON THE PROGRAM BASED ON THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED SCHOOL**
4 **YEAR.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.