

# SENATE BILL 271

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3lr1319

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By: **Senator Ready**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

19 **(B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

20 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS**  
21 **AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT PROMOTE THE CIVIC READINESS AND CIVIC**  
22 **ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





1                   A.    UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
2 EXAMINATION;

3                   B.    UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAMINATION; OR

4                   C.    COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
5 EXAMINATION;

6                   (II) ONE POINT FOR EARNING A GRADE OF A OR B IN EACH OF  
7 THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES:

8                   1.    UNITED STATES HISTORY;

9                   2.    MODERN WORLD HISTORY; AND

10                  3.    AMERICAN GOVERNMENT;

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

13                  1.    AT LEAST 50 HOURS MUST BE COMPLETED DURING  
14 HIGH SCHOOL; AND

15                  2.    AT LEAST 20 HOURS MUST BE DEDICATED TO A  
16 CIVICS-FOCUSED PROJECT;

17                  (IV) ONE POINT FOR PARTICIPATING AS A VOLUNTEER IN AN  
18 ELECTION CAMPAIGN, A VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITY, OR A PEACEFUL  
19 DEMONSTRATION:

20                  1.    THAT IS A NONSCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITY;

21                  2.    FOR A PERIOD OF TIME DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL  
22 SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND

23                  3.    WITH DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION;

24                  (V) UP TO THREE POINTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A  
25 SCHOOL-BASED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING:

26                  1.    RHO KAPPA NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR  
27 SOCIETY;

- 1                                   2.     **RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS;**
- 2                                   3.     **MOCK TRIAL;**
- 3                                   4.     **A LAW ACADEMY PROGRAM;**
- 4                                   5.     **MODEL UNITED NATIONS;**
- 5                                   6.     **A LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATE, OR NATIONAL HISTORY**  
6 **DAY COMPETITION;**
- 7                                   7.     **NATIONAL HISTORY CLUB;**
- 8                                   8.     **DEBATE CLUB;**
- 9                                   9.     **WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION;**
- 10                                  10.    **STUDENT PAGE FOR THE MARYLAND GENERAL**  
11 **ASSEMBLY;**
- 12                                  11.    **ELECTED OFFICE OR CLASS OFFICER IN STUDENT**  
13 **GOVERNMENT;**
- 14                                  12.    **SCHOOL NEWSPAPER; OR**
- 15                                  13.    **ANY CIVICS-RELATED ORGANIZATION, PROGRAM, OR**  
16 **ACTIVITY APPROVED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM;**
- 17                                  (VI) **UP TO TWO POINTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A**  
18 **NONSCHOOL-RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING:**
- 19                                   1.     **MARYLAND 4-H;**
- 20                                   2.     **GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA (CIVICS-RELATED**  
21 **ACTIVITIES);**
- 22                                   3.     **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (CIVICS-RELATED**  
23 **ACTIVITIES);**
- 24                                   4.     **TAKING FLIGHT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL;**
- 25                                   5.     **MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL;**

1                   **6. POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION CLUBS;**

2                   **7. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY; OR**

3                   **8. ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION, PROGRAM, OR ACTIVITY**  
4 **APPROVED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND**

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

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

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

12                   **(I) AWARD THE STUDENT A SEAL OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT;**

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

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

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

19                   **(I) DESIGNATE THE SCHOOL AS A CENTER OF CIVIC**  
20 **ENGAGEMENT; AND**

21                   **(II) RECOGNIZE THE DESIGNATION BY PROVIDING ANY OF THE**  
22 **FOLLOWING:**

23                   **1. A BANNER;**

24                   **2. A GOVERNOR'S CITATION; OR**

25                   **3. A CITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.**

26           **(H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, EACH**  
27 **PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A**

1 **REPORT ON THE PROGRAM BASED ON THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED SCHOOL**  
2 **YEAR.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2023.