

# SENATE BILL 370

F1, O1

(4lr1540)

## *ENROLLED BILL*

— *Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment/Appropriations  
and Ways and Means* —

Introduced by **Senator Hettleman**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Schools – Rental Assistance for Community School Families**  
3 **Program and Fund – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Rental Assistance for Community School Families  
5 Program to provide rental assistance to eligible student households; requiring ~~the~~  
6 ~~State Department of Education, in consultation with~~ the Department of Housing and  
7 Community Development, in consultation with the State Department of Education,  
8 to administer the Program; establishing the Rental Assistance for Community  
9 School Families Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring interest earnings of  
10 the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to the Rental Assistance  
11 for Community School Families Program and Fund.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Education

---

### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 Section 9.9–103 and 9.9–104  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

4 BY adding to  
5 Article – Education  
6 Section 9.9–104.1  
7 Annotated Code of Maryland  
8 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
11 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
16 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)189. and 190.  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
21 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)191.  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Education**

27 9.9–103.

28 (a) There are community schools in the State.

29 (b) A community school shall:

30 (1) Promote active family and community engagement, including  
31 educational opportunities for adults and family members of students at the school who live  
32 in the neighborhood of the school;

33 (2) Have a community school coordinator, as described under § 9.9–104 of  
34 this title;

1 (3) Promote expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities  
2 provided after school, during weekends, and in the summer that emphasize mastering  
3 21st-century skills through practical learning opportunities and community  
4 problem-solving;

5 (4) Promote collaborative leadership and practices that empower parents,  
6 students, teachers, principals, and community partners to build a culture of professional  
7 learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based  
8 leadership teams and teacher learning communities;

9 (5) Have a parent teacher organization or a school family council; and

10 (6) Have a community school leadership team.

11 (c) (1) There shall be a Director of Community Schools in the Department.

12 (2) The Director of Community Schools in the Department shall coordinate  
13 professional development for community school coordinators at each community school.

14 (3) **THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SHALL ADMINISTER**  
15 **SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY**  
16 **SCHOOL FAMILIES PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.9-104.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
17 **OUTREACH AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN**  
18 **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.**

19 (4) In addition to the funding provided for the Director of Community  
20 Schools position in the Department, the Governor may include in the annual budget bill an  
21 appropriation of at least \$100,000 to the Department for the Director of Community Schools  
22 to provide training and technical assistance to community schools and for additional staff.

23 9.9-104.

24 (a) (1) A community school shall have an experienced and qualified  
25 community school coordinator who:

26 (i) Is hired at the appropriate administrative level;

27 (ii) Understands, respects, and demonstrates a high degree of  
28 cultural awareness of and competency in the diversity in the community and in  
29 cross-cultural practice with stakeholders; and

30 (iii) May be employed by the school district.

31 (2) A community school coordinator may be a social worker.

32 (b) (1) A community school coordinator shall be responsible for:

1 (i) Establishing a community school;

2 (ii) Completing an assessment of the needs of the students in the  
3 school for appropriate wraparound services to enhance the success of all students in the  
4 school;

5 (iii) Developing an implementation plan based on the assessment of  
6 needs for the community school, in cooperation with other interested stakeholders; ~~and~~

7 ~~(iv) IDENTIFYING STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS ELIGIBLE FOR THE~~  
8 ~~RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL FAMILIES PROGRAM~~  
9 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.9-104.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND AIDING IN THE~~  
10 ~~ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM AT THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL; AND~~

11 ~~[(iv)] (v)~~ Coordinating support programs that address  
12 out-of-school learning barriers for students and families, including:

13 1. Wraparound services; and

14 2. As appropriate:

15 A. Tutoring;

16 B. English language learner courses;

17 C. Early childhood development and parenting classes;

18 D. College and career advising;

19 E. Employment opportunities;

20 F. Citizenship education;

21 G. Food pantries; ~~and~~

22 **H. RENTAL ASSISTANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
23 **9.9-104.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

24 **[H.] I.** School-based behavioral and physical health  
25 services.

26 (2) The needs assessment completed under this subsection shall:

27 (i) Be completed in collaboration with:

- 1 1. The principal;
- 2 2. A school health care practitioner; and
- 3 3. A parent teacher organization or a school council;

4 (ii) Include an assessment of the physical, behavioral, and mental  
5 health needs and wraparound service needs of students, their families, and their  
6 communities; and

7 (iii) Be submitted to the Department and the local school system  
8 within 1 year of receiving a personnel grant under § 5-223 of this article or within 1 year  
9 of becoming a community school.

10 (3) The implementation plan completed under this subsection shall  
11 include:

12 (i) A strategy for providing wraparound services to address the  
13 needs of the students, their families, and their communities, building on and strengthening  
14 community resources near the school;

15 (ii) Inclusion, if possible and practicable, of community partners in  
16 geographic proximity to the school that can assist in meeting the needs identified in the  
17 assessment;

18 (iii) Ensure that time is made available to train staff on the supports  
19 available, the need for the supports, and how to engage with the community schools  
20 coordinator to access these supports; and

21 (iv) Develop strategies to maximize external non-State or non-local  
22 education funding.

23 (4) (i) The implementation plan shall be submitted to the local school  
24 system for approval within 1 year of completion of the needs assessment.

25 (ii) After the implementation plan is approved by the local school  
26 system it shall be submitted to the Department.

27 **9.9-104.1.**

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

30 (2) "FUND" MEANS THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY  
31 SCHOOL FAMILIES FUND.

1           (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY  
2 SCHOOL FAMILIES PROGRAM.

3           (B) THERE IS A RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL FAMILIES  
4 PROGRAM.

5           (C) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE RENTAL  
6 ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS AT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

7           (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE ~~DEPARTMENT,~~  
8 ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE~~ DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
9 ~~DEVELOPMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.~~

10          (D) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM, A  
11 COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENT MUST BE:

12           (1) ENROLLED IN A COMMUNITY SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES FUNDING  
13 UNDER § 5-223 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

14           ~~(2) COUNTED UNDER COMPENSATORY EDUCATION ENROLLMENT AS~~  
15 ~~DEFINED UNDER § 5-222 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND~~

16           ~~(3)~~ (2) FROM A HOUSEHOLD ~~THAT:~~

17           (i) THAT IS HOUSED IN A RENTAL PROPERTY, WHERE AT LEAST  
18 ONE HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING INSTABILITY,  
19 AS EVIDENCED BY PAST DUE RENT OR UTILITY NOTICES, UNSAFE LIVING  
20 CONDITIONS, OR OTHER EVIDENCE DETERMINED BY THE ~~COMMUNITY SCHOOLS~~  
21 ~~COORDINATOR~~ DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; AND  
22 OR

23           (ii) WHERE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER QUALIFIES FOR  
24 ASSISTANCE UNDER THE FEDERAL MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE  
25 ACT.

26           ~~(4) FROM A HOUSEHOLD WHERE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER IS~~  
27 ~~EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, AS EVIDENCED BY RECEIPT OF~~  
28 ~~UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OR OTHER EVIDENCE DETERMINED BY THE COMMUNITY~~  
29 ~~SCHOOLS COORDINATOR.~~

30           (E) (1) ~~THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE RENTAL AND UTILITY PAYMENTS~~  
31 ~~ON BEHALF OF ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS DIRECTLY~~  
32 ~~TO A HOUSEHOLD'S LANDLORD OR UTILITY COMPANY TO ASSIST WITH~~ ELIGIBLE  
33 USES FOR PAYMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- 1 (I) RENTAL PAYMENTS;
- 2 (II) RENTAL ARREARS;
- 3 (III) FINES OR FEES ASSOCIATED WITH RENTAL PAYMENTS,  
4 INCLUDING A LATE FINE OR FEE;
- 5 (IV) UTILITY PAYMENTS;
- 6 (V) UTILITY ARREARS; ~~OR~~
- 7 (VI) FINES OR FEES ASSOCIATED WITH UTILITY PAYMENTS,  
8 INCLUDING A LATE FINE OR FEE; OR
- 9 (VII) RELOCATION EXPENSES.

10 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
11 AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S HOUSEHOLD MAY RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE PROGRAM  
12 FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS.

13 (3) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, AN ELIGIBLE  
14 STUDENT'S HOUSEHOLD MAY RECEIVE ONE 3-MONTH EXTENSION OF SUPPORT IF  
15 THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENT REMAINS ELIGIBLE UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF  
16 THIS SECTION FOLLOWING 12 MONTHS OF SUPPORT.

17 ~~(F) THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR SHALL IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE  
18 STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS AND FACILITATE DIRECT PAYMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
19 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.~~

20 ~~(G)~~ (F) (1) THERE IS A RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY  
21 SCHOOL FAMILIES FUND.

22 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
23 DEVELOPMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

24 (3) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
25 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

26 (II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND  
27 SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

28 (4) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

1 (I) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE  
2 FUND;

3 (II) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

4 (III) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED  
5 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

6 (5) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO:

7 (I) PROVIDE RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
8 PROGRAM; AND

9 (II) COVER THE COSTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

11 ~~(6) IN DETERMINING WHICH ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS TO~~  
12 ~~SUPPORT UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO~~  
13 ~~ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS FROM COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WITH THE LOWEST~~  
14 ~~PROPORTION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS.~~

15 ~~(7) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAY~~  
16 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$10,000,000 ~~OF~~  
17 ~~\$10,000,000~~ FOR THE FUND.

18 Article – State Finance and Procurement

19 6–226.

20 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
21 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
22 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
23 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
24 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
25 Fund of the State.

26 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
27 to the following funds:

28 189. the Teacher Retention and Development Fund; [and]

29 190. the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund; AND

30 191. THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
31 FAMILIES FUND.



1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2 1, 2024.

Approved:

---

Governor.

---

President of the Senate.

---

Speaker of the House of Delegates.