

Chapter 327

(Senate Bill 451)

AN ACT concerning

Adult Education – High School Diploma by Examination – Requirements and Study

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to allow an individual to take all components of the General Educational Development Test in the same language ~~of their choice~~; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to examination requirements for a high school diploma by examination.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–808(a), (b), and (d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–808(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Labor and Employment

11–808.

(a) An individual may obtain a high school diploma by examination as provided in this section if the individual:

- (1) has not obtained a high school diploma;
- (2) resides in this State; and
- (3) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section:

(i) is not subject to compulsory school attendance under § 7–301 of the Education Article; and

(ii) has withdrawn from a regular full-time public or private school program.

(b) An individual is not subject to the requirements of subsection (a)(3) of this section if the individual participates in a GED Option Program administered by the State Department of Education that creates a pathway to a high school diploma by examination for currently enrolled high school English language learner students under the age of 21 years who have experienced interrupted education and have a lower level of English proficiency than their peers.

(c) The Department shall:

(1) offer examinations to individuals who are pursuing a high school diploma under this subtitle at least twice each year at places throughout the State that are reasonably convenient for the applicants; AND

(2) ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO *CHOOSE TO* TAKE ALL COMPONENTS OF THE EXAMINATION IN ~~THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR CHOICE SAME LANGUAGE FROM THE ENGLISH OR SPANISH LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT EITHER ENGLISH OR SPANISH.~~

(d) The examination shall:

(1) be offered in appropriate high school subject areas; and

(2) be of a comprehensive nature as determined by the State Board of Education.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Labor shall:

(1) identify other appropriate languages in which to offer the General Educational Development Test for adult learners in the State; and

(2) study the feasibility and cost of offering the examination in additional languages.

(b) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department shall submit, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, a report of its findings and recommendations from the study required under this section to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.