

# HOUSE BILL 1373

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By: **Delegates Ghrist, Roberson, Roberts, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Virtual Schools – Operation by For-Profit Entities**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a provision of law prohibiting a county board of education  
4 from contracting with a for-profit entity to operate or administer a virtual school;  
5 and generally relating to the operation or administration of virtual schools.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Education  
8 Section 7–1402  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 7–1402.

15 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection and subject to  
16 the approval of the Department, a county board may establish one virtual school for the  
17 elementary, middle, and high school grade bands.

18 (2) The Department may provide preliminary authorization to a county  
19 board to establish one additional virtual school on a showing of just cause, as determined  
20 by the Department.

21 (3) The Department may revoke approval of a virtual school if during the  
22 previous school year the virtual school fails to meet the standards established by the  
23 Department in regulation.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (4)   (i)    A county board may appeal a denial or revocation of approval for  
2 the establishment of a virtual school to the State Board for adjudication during a public  
3 hearing.

4                               (ii)   The State Board shall develop an appeals process to carry out the  
5 provisions of this paragraph.

6           (b)    A virtual school may not include classes for prekindergarten or kindergarten  
7 students.

8           (c)    A virtual school is subject to all applicable federal and State laws and  
9 regulations governing the operation of a public school.

10           (d)   Each approved virtual school shall have a unique school code assigned by the  
11 Department.

12           (e)    **[(1)]** A county board may **[not]** contract with a for-profit entity**],** but may  
13 contract with **] OR** a nonprofit entity**[,]** to operate or administer a virtual school for the  
14 county board.

15                       **[(2)** The provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection may not be construed  
16 to prohibit a county board from contracting with a for-profit entity for goods and services  
17 for a virtual school.**]**

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2025.