

HOUSE BILL 627

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HB 875/25 – W&M

6lr0936

By: **Delegates Acevero, Alston, Amprey, Fair, Fennell, Hornberger, Lewis, Martinez, Mireku–North, Roberson, Ruff, Simmons, Taylor, Terrasa, Turner, Woods, Woorman, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in
4 Education to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State
5 Department of Education to further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of
6 the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland and to provide
7 equitable learning outcomes consistent with certain provisions of the Blueprint for
8 Maryland’s Future; and generally relating to the Commission on History, Culture,
9 and Civics in Education.

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–137
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **7–137.**

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE COMMISSION ON
20 HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVICS IN EDUCATION.

21 (B) (1) THERE IS A COMMISSION ON HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVICS IN
22 EDUCATION.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO:

(I) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT TO FURTHER THE DISCOVERY, INTERPRETATION, AND LEARNING OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVICS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MARYLAND; AND

(II) PROVIDE EQUITABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES REGARDLESS OF A STUDENT'S FAMILY INCOME, RACE, ETHNICITY, DISABILITY, OR OTHER CHARACTERISTICS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE IN § 1-303 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(C) (1) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES:

(I) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING MARYLAND'S INDIGENOUS AMERICAN TRIBES, WHICH INCLUDE THE LENAPE, NANTICOKE, PISCATAWAY, CONOY, POWHATAN, ACCOHANNOCK, SHAWNEE, SUSQUEHANNOCK, TUTELO, AND SAPONI TRIBES, NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS;

(II) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE MARYLAND LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY, ONE OF WHOM IDENTIFIES AS TRANSGENDER, NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LGBTQIA+ CAUCUS;

(III) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE MARYLAND DISABLED COMMUNITY, NOMINATED BY THE SECRETARY OF DISABILITIES;

(IV) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE TEACHERS OR HOLD A TEACHING LICENSE IN THE STATE:

1. ONE OF WHOM IS NOMINATED BY THE BALTIMORE TEACHER'S UNION; AND

2. ONE OF WHOM IS NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION;

(V) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE MARYLAND LATINO COMMUNITY, NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS;

(VI) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, NOMINATED BY THE LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND;

(VII) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE MARYLAND ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY, NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC-ISLANDER CAUCUS;

(VIII) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING HIGHER EDUCATION:

1. ONE OF WHOM IS NOMINATED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND; AND

2. ONE OF WHOM IS NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES; AND

(IX) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE.

(2) THE INDIVIDUALS CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(VIII)1 OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS WHO REPRESENT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE.

(D) (1) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION SHALL REFLECT THE GENDER, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

(2) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE OR EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL CONTENT STANDARDS.

(E) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.

(2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON JULY 1, 2026.

(F) THE COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS.

(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

(H) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION; BUT

(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(I) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) EXAMINE THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVICS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MARYLAND, INCLUDING:

(I) THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS, LATINOS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS;

(II) THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE MINORITY GROUPS;

(III) THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES WITHIN THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES;

(IV) THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES;

(V) THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MARYLAND DISABLED COMMUNITY; AND

(VI) THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN;

(2) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS AND PROGRAMS THAT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE DISCOVERY, INTERPRETATION, AND LEARNING OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVICS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MARYLAND;

(3) MAKE ALL ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS OF THE COMMISSION AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE, INCLUDING:

(I) LIVE AND ARCHIVED VIDEO STREAMING OF EACH COMMISSION MEETING;

(II) MEETING AGENDAS, MATERIALS, AND NOTES; AND

(III) COMMISSION REPORTS; AND

(4) USE MULTIPLE COMMUNICATIONS METHODS TO PROVIDE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS RELATED TO THE COMMISSION.

1 **(J) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2026, THE**
2 **COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE**
3 **BOARD, THE GOVERNOR, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
4 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

5 **(K) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 EACH YEAR, THE STATE BOARD SHALL:**

6 **(1) REVIEW THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS;**
7 **AND**

8 **(2) MAKE ANY APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO THE EDUCATIONAL**
9 **STANDARDS FOR PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial
11 members of the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education shall expire as
12 follows:

13 (1) the eight members representing the indigenous American tribes,
14 Maryland Latino community, African American community, and Asian American and
15 Pacific Islander community in 2028; and

16 (2) the eight members representing the LGBTQIA+ community, disabled
17 community, teachers, and higher education in 2030.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2026.