

HOUSE BILL 627

F1
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~~ Young, Ebersole, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026
Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted with floor amendments
Read second time: March 15, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on ~~History, Culture, and Civics~~ Historic, Cultural, and Civic**
3 **Contributions in Education – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on ~~History, Culture, and Civics~~ Historic,
5 Cultural, and Civic Contributions in Education to study and make recommendations
6 to the State Board of Education and the ~~State Department of Education to further~~
7 ~~the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the~~
8 ~~United States and Maryland and to provide equitable learning outcomes consistent~~
9 ~~with certain provisions of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future~~ Maryland Higher
10 Education Commission about certain lessons currently taught in public schools;
11 requiring the Commission to study school calendars and make recommendations to
12 the State Board and the General Assembly; requiring the State Board to identify
13 existing courses and materials to be updated into professional development courses
14 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the Commission on ~~History,~~
15 ~~Culture, and Civics~~ Historic, Cultural, and Civic Contributions in Education.

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education

18 Section ~~7-137~~ 24-1401 through 24-1405 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14.
19 Commission on Historic, Cultural, and Civic Contributions in Education”

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (~~2025~~ 2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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.



Preamble

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland was identified as the fourth most diverse state in the union in the 2020 U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is enriched by a diverse population whose histories, cultures, and contributions have shaped our communities, institutions, and shared identity; and

WHEREAS, An inclusive and comprehensive education is essential to preparing students to thrive in a diverse and interconnected society; and

WHEREAS, A well-rounded curriculum that meaningfully reflects diverse histories, perspectives, and contributions is essential to the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which seeks to provide equitable learning outcomes regardless of a student's familial income, race, ethnicity, disability status, or other individual characteristics; and

WHEREAS, The study of history and social contributions should reflect the full breadth of experiences and perspectives that have influenced our State and nation, including those of communities that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized; and

WHEREAS, Providing students with access to diverse narratives fosters critical thinking, cultural awareness, empathy, and a more accurate understanding of our collective past; now, therefore,

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

Article – Education

~~7-137.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COMMISSION ON HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVICS IN EDUCATION.~~

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

~~(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~~

~~(H) 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 ~~1. ONE OF WHOM IS NOMINATED BY THE CHANCELLOR~~
2 ~~OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND; AND~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 ~~(H) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:~~

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

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

28 ~~(I) THE COMMISSION SHALL:~~

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

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

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

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

9 ~~(IV) THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS~~
10 ~~MINORITIES;~~

11 ~~(V) THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MARYLAND DISABLED~~
12 ~~COMMUNITY; AND~~

13 ~~(VI) THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN;~~

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

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

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

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

23 ~~(III) COMMISSION REPORTS; AND~~

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

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

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

~~(1) REVIEW THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS;~~

~~AND~~

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

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

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

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

SUBTITLE 14. COMMISSION ON HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATION.

24-1401.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COMMISSION ON HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATION.

24-1402.

THERE IS A COMMISSION ON HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATION.

24-1403.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ASSIST THE STATE'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH:

(1) PROVIDING STUDENTS AN ACCURATE EDUCATION ON THE HISTORIC ROLES PLAYED BY DIVERSE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE STATE'S AND THE NATION'S PAST; AND

(2) REMAINING RESPONSIVE TO THE EVOLVING NEEDS OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

24-1404.

1 **(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, JOINTLY**
2 **APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE:**

3 **(1) NINE MEMBERS, EACH OF WHOM IS AN EXPERT IN ACCURATE**
4 **INSTRUCTION, EDUCATION, AND CURRICULAR CONTENT IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING**
5 **SUBJECTS:**

6 **(I) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE;**

7 **(II) ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HISTORY AND**
8 **CULTURE;**

9 **(III) HISPANIC AND LATINO AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE;**

10 **(IV) THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF MARYLAND'S INDIGENOUS**
11 **PEOPLE AND THEIR DESCENDANTS;**

12 **(V) THE HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS;**

13 **(VI) JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE;**

14 **(VII) LGBTQ+ AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE;**

15 **(VIII) MUSLIM AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE; AND**

16 **(IX) THE HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN;**

17 **(2) SEVEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS, EACH RECOMMENDED BY ONE OF**
18 **THE FOLLOWING GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAUCUSES:**

19 **(I) THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE ASIAN-AMERICAN &**
20 **PACIFIC-ISLANDER CAUCUS;**

21 **(II) THE LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND;**

22 **(III) THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE JEWISH CAUCUS;**

23 **(IV) THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS;**

24 **(V) THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LGBTQ+ CAUCUS;**

25 **(VI) THE MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE MUSLIM CAUCUS; AND**

26 **(VII) THE WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND;**

1 **(3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE'S DISABLED COMMUNITY,**
2 **RECOMMENDED BY THE SECRETARY OF DISABILITIES;**

3 **(4) TWO LICENSED TEACHERS, CURRENTLY TEACHING COURSES**
4 **THAT INVOLVE SOCIAL STUDIES OR OTHER RELATED HISTORICAL CURRICULA;**

5 ~~**(4) (5)**~~ **TWO STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC HIGH**
6 **SCHOOL IN THE STATE;**

7 ~~**(5) (6)**~~ **THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**
8 **EDUCATION, SELECTED AS FOLLOWS:**

9 **(I) ONE FROM AN INSTITUTION WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY**
10 **SYSTEM OF MARYLAND;**

11 **(II) ONE FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE; AND**

12 **(III) ONE FROM A HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR**
13 **UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE THAT IS A SEPARATE ENTITY FROM THE ENTITY**
14 **REPRESENTED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM; AND**

15 ~~**(6) (7)**~~ **ONE CURRENT MEMBER OF THE PROFESSIONAL**
16 **STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD, RECOMMENDED BY THE**
17 **PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD.**

18 **(B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION**
19 **SHALL REFLECT THE GENDER, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF**
20 **THE STATE.**

21 **(C) (1) EXCEPT FOR THE STUDENT MEMBER, THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS**
22 **4 YEARS.**

23 **(2) THE TERM OF A STUDENT MEMBER IS 1 YEAR.**

24 **(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.**

25 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.**

26 **(F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:**

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

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

3 **24-1405.**

4 **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

5 **(1) THOROUGHLY STUDY THE COURSE TOPICS, CURRICULUM**
6 **STANDARDS, CURRICULUM RESOURCES, CURRICULUM UNITS, AND COURSE SYLLABI**
7 **CURRENTLY BEING USED TO TEACH STUDENTS IN THE STATE AND HOW THEY**
8 **REPRESENT THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF DIVERSE GROUPS, INCLUDING:**

9 **(i) HOW THEY INCORPORATE BOTH THE SHARED AND**
10 **DISTINCT HISTORIES AND CULTURES ABOUT WHICH COMMISSION MEMBERS HAVE**
11 **EXPERTISE;**

12 **(ii) WHETHER SOURCES PRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF A**
13 **COMMUNITY ARE USED IN LESSONS ABOUT THAT COMMUNITY; AND**

14 **(iii) THE APPROXIMATE PROPORTION OF OVERALL**
15 **INSTRUCTIONAL TIME THAT IS DEDICATED TO THE HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC**
16 **CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPECIFIC DIVERSE GROUPS COMPARED TO OTHER TOPICS; AND**

17 **(2) STUDY CURRENT SCHOOL CALENDARS AND REQUIRED HOURS OF**
18 **INSTRUCTION AND WHETHER THEY ARE DESIGNED TO REFLECT THE TRADITIONS**
19 **AND CUSTOMS OF ALL MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY.**

20 **(B) (1) AFTER THOROUGHLY STUDYING THE MATERIALS DESCRIBED**
21 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2028, AND**
22 **EVERY 4 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS**
23 **TO:**

24 **(i) THE STATE BOARD TO UPDATE COURSE TOPICS,**
25 **CURRICULUM STANDARDS, CURRICULUM RESOURCES, CURRICULUM UNITS, AND**
26 **COURSE SYLLABI TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT, THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED**
27 **FACTUAL HISTORY, THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIVERSE GROUPS; AND**

28 **(ii) THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION TO**
29 **UPDATE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON**
30 **TEACHING THE ACCURATE HISTORY OF DIVERSE PEOPLE AND THEIR**
31 **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC LIFE OF THE STATE**
32 **AND NATION.**

1 **(2) IF THE STATE BOARD UPDATES ANY COURSE TOPICS,**
 2 **CURRICULUM STANDARDS, CURRICULUM RESOURCES, CURRICULUM UNITS, OR**
 3 **COURSE SYLLABI IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION’S REPORT, THE STATE BOARD**
 4 **SHALL IDENTIFY EXISTING COURSES AND MATERIALS THAT MAY BE ADAPTED INTO**
 5 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES TO ASSIST EDUCATORS WITH TEACHING**
 6 **UPDATED LESSONS.**

7 **(C) AFTER THOROUGHLY STUDYING SCHOOL CALENDARS AND REQUIRED**
 8 **HOURS OF INSTRUCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS**
 9 **SECTION, ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2027, AND EVERY 4 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE**
 10 **COMMISSION SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON POTENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS**
 11 **THAT WOULD BETTER REFLECT THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF ALL COMMUNITY**
 12 **MEMBERS TO THE STATE BOARD AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE**
 13 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

14 **(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL COMPLETE ANY OTHER TASKS JOINTLY**
 15 **ASSIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.**

16 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Commission on Historic,**
 17 **Cultural, and Civic Contributions in Education, established under § 24-1402 of the**
 18 **Education Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall report on or before December**
 19 **1, 2029, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on whether the**
 20 **Commission has adequately accomplished its goals and whether the Commission should**
 21 **continue.**

22 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
 23 **1, 2026.**

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.