

HOUSE BILL 1231

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6lr2118

By: **Delegates Wivell, Baker, and Valentine**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026
Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Dually Enrolled Students**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “dually enrolled student” to include both a
4 nonpublic secondary school student and a homeschool student in Washington County
5 so that these students are eligible to apply for the Part–Time Grant Program and
6 the Early College Access Grant; altering the definition of “full–time equivalent
7 enrollment” to include both a nonpublic secondary school student and a home school
8 student in Washington County; and generally relating to institutions of higher
9 education and dually enrolled students.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 5–201(a) and (e)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 5–201(g)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Education
22 Section 15–127, 18–1401, and 18–14A–01
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
26 Article – Education
27 Section 18–14A–02 and 18–14A–03

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Education**

6 5–201.

7 (a) In this subtitle, except as otherwise provided, the following words have the
8 meanings indicated.

9 (e) “Enrollment count” means the greater of:

10 (1) The full–time equivalent enrollment; or

11 (2) The 3–year moving average enrollment.

12 (g) “Full–time equivalent enrollment” means the sum of:

13 (1) The number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 or
14 their equivalent in regular day school programs on September 30 of the prior school year;

15 (2) The number of full–time equivalent students, as determined by a
16 regulation of the Department, enrolled in evening high school programs during the prior
17 school year; [and]

18 (3) The number of P–TECH students, as provided in § 7–1804(b) of this
19 article; **AND**

20 **(4) THE NUMBER OF DUALY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE**
21 **ENROLLED IN:**

22 **(I) A NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON**
23 **COUNTY; OR**

24 **(II) A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

25 15–127.

26 (a) (1) In this section, “dually enrolled student” means a student who is dually
27 enrolled in **AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE AND:**

28 (i) **A PUBLIC** secondary school in the State; [and]

1 (ii) [An institution of higher education in the State] **A NONPUBLIC**
2 **SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY; OR**

3 **(III) A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

4 (2) “Dually enrolled student” includes a student enrolled in a credit or
5 noncredit certificate or license program, course, or sequence of courses that leads to
6 certification or licensure at an institution of higher education in the State.

7 (b) A public institution of higher education may not charge tuition to a dually
8 enrolled student.

9 (c) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, for each dually enrolled student who
10 is enrolled in a public school in the county, the county board shall pay 75% of the cost of
11 tuition for a public institution of higher education in the State.

12 (d) (1) If there is an agreement before July 1, 2020, between a public,
13 **NONPUBLIC, OR HOME** school and a public institution of higher education in which the
14 public institution of higher education charges less than 75% of the cost of tuition to a dually
15 enrolled student, the county board shall pay the cost of tuition under the existing
16 agreement.

17 (2) Every 2 years, a public, **NONPUBLIC, OR HOME** school and a public
18 institution of higher education may evaluate and modify an agreement made under
19 paragraph (1) of this subsection.

20 18–1401.

21 (a) In this section, “part–time student” means a student who:

22 (1) Is enrolled in a degree–granting program at an eligible institution and
23 taking at least 3 but no more than 11 semester hours of courses each semester; or

24 (2) Is dually enrolled in [a secondary school in the State and] an institution
25 of higher education **IN THE STATE AND:**

26 **(I) A PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE STATE;**

27 **(II) A NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON**
28 **COUNTY; OR**

29 **(III) A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

30 (b) In cooperation with the institutions of higher education in the State, the
31 Commission shall establish and administer a grant program for undergraduate part–time
32 students.

1 (c) A recipient of a part-time grant shall:

2 (1) Except as provided in § 18-1401.1 of this subtitle, be a resident of the
3 State; and

4 (2) Have demonstrated a definite financial need according to criteria
5 established by the Commission.

6 (d) For courses completed under the program, a recipient who is dually enrolled
7 in a secondary school in the State and an institution of higher education may not be
8 required to receive credit from a secondary school and an institution of higher education at
9 the same time.

10 18-14A-01.

11 (a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

12 (2) "Dually enrolled student" means a student who is dually enrolled in:

13 (i) 1. A PUBLIC secondary school in the State;

14 2. A NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON
15 COUNTY; OR

16 3. A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY; and

17 (ii) An institution of higher education in the State.

18 (3) "Grant" means the Early College Access Grant.

19 (b) There is an Early College Access Grant that provides financial assistance to
20 dually enrolled students in the State.

21 (c) In cooperation with institutions of higher education in the State, the
22 Commission shall administer the Grant.

23 (d) A recipient of a grant shall:

24 (1) Be a dually enrolled student; and

25 (2) Demonstrate financial need according to criteria established by the
26 Commission.

27 (e) For courses completed under the Grant, a recipient is not required to receive
28 credit from a secondary school and an institution of higher education at the same time.

1 18-14A-02.

2 (a) Funds for the Grant shall be allocated by the Commission to an institution of
3 higher education based on the number of dually enrolled students receiving credit for
4 courses completed at the institution.

5 (b) Funds for the Grant shall be as provided in the annual budget of the
6 Commission by the Governor.

7 18-14A-03.

8 The Commission shall:

9 (1) Establish guidelines for awarding the Grant to dually enrolled
10 students; and

11 (2) Adopt any other guidelines or regulations necessary for the
12 administration of this subtitle.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2026.