

# HOUSE BILL 1396

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By: **Delegates Miller, Adams, Arentz, Beauchamp, Buckel, Ciliberti, Hornberger, Hutchinson, Jacobs, McComas, T. Morgan, Reilly, Rose, Schmidt, Tomlinson, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Blueprint Fiscal Sustainability and Student Achievement –**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Blueprint Fiscal Sustainability and  
5 Student Achievement to study and make recommendations on the successful and  
6 sustainable implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future; and generally  
7 relating to the Commission on Blueprint Fiscal Sustainability and Student  
8 Achievement.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
10 That:

11 (a) There is a Commission on Blueprint Fiscal Sustainability and Student  
12 Achievement.

13 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

14 (1) the following four members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
15 President of the Senate:

16 (i) one member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee from  
17 the majority party;

18 (ii) one member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee from  
19 the minority party;

20 (iii) one member of the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and  
21 the Environment from the majority party; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iv) one member of the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and  
2 the Environment from the minority party;

3 (2) the following four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
4 Speaker of the House:

5 (i) one member of the House Appropriations Committee from the  
6 majority party;

7 (ii) one member of the House Appropriations Committee from the  
8 minority party;

9 (iii) one member of the House Ways and Means Committee from the  
10 majority party; and

11 (iv) one member of the House Ways and Means Committee from the  
12 minority party;

13 (3) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's  
14 designee;

15 (4) the Chair of the Interagency Commission on School Construction, or the  
16 Chair's designee;

17 (5) the Chair of the Accountability and Implementation Board, or the  
18 Chair's designee;

19 (6) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

20 (7) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (8) the following three officials serving in county government or the  
22 government of Baltimore City, designated by the Executive Director of the Maryland  
23 Association of Counties:

24 (i) one official representing a rural area;

25 (ii) one official representing a suburban area; and

26 (iii) one official representing an urban area;

27 (9) two teachers, designated by the President of the Maryland State  
28 Education Association;

29 (10) one special education advocate, designated by the Executive Director of  
30 the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council;

1 (11) one advocate for multilingual learners, designated by the President of  
2 the Maryland English Language Learning Family Involvement Network;

3 (12) the 2026 Maryland Teacher of the Year;

4 (13) one county superintendent, as defined in § 1–101 of the Education  
5 Article, designated by the Executive Director of the Public School Superintendent  
6 Association of Maryland;

7 (14) one member of a county board of education, as defined in § 1–101 of the  
8 Education Article, designated by the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of  
9 Boards of Education;

10 (15) one operator of a publicly funded private prekindergarten provider,  
11 selected by the Executive Director of the Maryland State Child Care Association;

12 (16) one member of a local workforce development board, appointed by the  
13 Chair of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board;

14 (17) the following three parents, designated by the President of Free State  
15 PTA:

16 (i) one parent whose child attends a public school located in a rural  
17 area;

18 (ii) one parent whose child attends a public school located in a  
19 suburban area; and

20 (iii) one parent whose child attends a public school located in an  
21 urban area; and

22 (18) one student, designated by the Executive Director of the Maryland  
23 Association of Student Councils.

24 (c) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House  
25 jointly shall designate the chair of the Commission.

26 (d) (1) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the  
27 Commission.

28 (2) If additional staffing is required, the Accountability and  
29 Implementation Board shall provide additional staff for the Commission.

30 (e) A member of the Commission:

31 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

1           (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
2 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

3           (f) The Commission shall study and make recommendations on matters related  
4 to the successful and sustainable implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future,  
5 including:

6           (1) the formulas used to fund public schools in the State, with particular  
7 attention to:

8           (i) the way enrollment data for counties with changing student age  
9 populations may result in underfunding or overfunding for the current school year; and

10           (ii) the differences in poverty in a rural community and in an urban  
11 community and whether those differences should reflect differences in funding formulas;

12           (2) statutorily required ratios in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and  
13 whether the ratios chosen are feasible or should be adjusted or repealed, including:

14           (i) the statutorily required time spent in the classroom under the  
15 career ladder; and

16           (ii) the statutorily required mix of public and private  
17 prekindergarten providers in the publicly funded prekindergarten program;

18           (3) the impact of the career ladder for educators, established under Title 6,  
19 Subtitle 10 of the Education Article, including:

20           (i) the effectiveness of the minimum teacher salary and other salary  
21 increases required under § 6–1009 of the Education Article at increasing teacher retention;  
22 and

23           (ii) whether there has been a statistically significant difference in  
24 the assessment results for students taught by a National Board Certified teacher and  
25 teachers that are not National Board Certified;

26           (4) whether the particular, broad-based changes to funding made under  
27 the Blueprint for Maryland's Future are the most efficient way to ensure that all students  
28 receive a high-quality education, or if a student achievement model would have better  
29 results, including:

30           (i) the authorization of the Accountability and Implementation  
31 Board to withhold 25% of the increase in the State share of major education aid in  
32 accordance with § 5–405 of the Education Article; and

33           (ii) the minimum school funding amount required under § 5–234 of  
34 the Education Article; and

1           (5) any other issues that the Commission determines are relevant to the  
2 successful and sustainable implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

3           (g) (1) On or before December 31, 2026, the Commission shall provide an  
4 interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance  
5 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

6           (2) On or before December 1, 2027, the Commission shall provide a final  
7 report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §  
8 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
10 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028,  
11 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
12 of no further force and effect.