

# SENATE BILL 204

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0716  
CF HB 57

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By: **Senators Kagan and Ready**

Requested: August 20, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Civic Excellence Program in the State  
4 Department of Education; authorizing a local school system to participate in the  
5 Program to recognize students who meet criteria related to student proficiency in  
6 civics and civic literacy; and generally relating to the Maryland Civic Excellence  
7 Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7-137

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7-137.**

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND CIVIC  
18 EXCELLENCE PROGRAM.

19 (B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CIVIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM IN THE  
20 DEPARTMENT.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



4 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

5 (D) NOT LATER THAN THE 2027–2028 SCHOOL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT, IN  
6 CONSULTATION WITH EXPERTS AND STAKEHOLDERS, SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES  
7 TO ASSIST PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO DETERMINE STUDENT  
8 PROFICIENCY IN CIVICS AND CIVIC LITERACY.

9                   (E) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM  
10 THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM.

## **(I) A MARYLAND CIVIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS:**

19 (F) A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT DETERMINES A  
20 STUDENT HAS FULFILLED THE CRITERIA UNDER THE PROGRAM MAY:

**(1) AWARD THE STUDENT A SEAL OF CIVIC EXCELLENCE; AND**

24 (G) A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY COLLABORATE WITH  
25 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, OR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
26 EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.

27        (H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, EACH  
28 PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A  
29 REPORT ON THE PROGRAM BASED ON THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED SCHOOL  
30 YEAR.

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