

SENATE BILL 648

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6lr3026
CF HB 856

By: Senator Hettleman

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Local School Systems – Educator Screening – Educator Identification
3 Clearinghouse
4 (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to register each local
6 school system in the State as an associate member of a certain national membership
7 organization; requiring each local school system in the State to utilize the Educator
8 Identification Clearinghouse to screen individuals who receive an offer of
9 employment for an educator position that requires a license and ensure that each
10 individual who receives an offer applies for and obtains the appropriate license
11 before certain occurrences; and generally relating to the hiring and screening process
12 for educators employed within local school systems in the State.

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Education
15 Section 6–103.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 **6–103.1.**

22 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION” MEANS A
23 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT IS A NATIONAL COLLECTION POINT FOR
24 PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE ACTIONS TAKEN BY ALL 50 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF
25 COLUMBIA, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SCHOOLS, AND GUAM THAT PROVIDES MEMBERS WITH NOTIFICATION OF AN ACTION
2 TAKEN AGAINST THE CREDENTIAL OF AN EDUCATOR BY OTHER MEMBER STATES OR
3 JURISDICTIONS.

4 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

5 (1) REGISTER EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE STATE AS AN
6 ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES
7 ACCESS TO THE EDUCATOR IDENTIFICATION CLEARINGHOUSE; AND

8 (2) PAY ANY APPLICABLE FEES AND DUES ASSOCIATED WITH
9 MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION.

10 (C) EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE STATE SHALL:

11 (1) UTILIZE THE EDUCATOR IDENTIFICATION CLEARINGHOUSE
12 THROUGH THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION TO SCREEN EACH
13 INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES, ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2026, AN OFFER OF
14 EMPLOYMENT FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR AN EDUCATOR POSITION
15 THAT REQUIRES A LICENSE; AND

16 (2) ENSURE THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES AN OFFER
17 SPECIFIED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

18 (I) APPLIES FOR THE APPROPRIATE LICENSE AFTER THE
19 OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT AND BEFORE THE START OF EMPLOYMENT; AND

20 (II) OBTAINS THE APPROPRIATE LICENSE BEFORE ANY
21 INTERACTION WITH CHILDREN.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act may be
23 construed to impair or effect the requirements of § 6–113 of the Education Article.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2026.