

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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.**

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.



1 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION” MEANS A**
2 **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT IS A NATIONAL COLLECTION POINT FOR**
3 **PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE ACTIONS TAKEN BY ALL 50 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF**
4 **COLUMBIA, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**
5 **SCHOOLS, AND GUAM THAT PROVIDES MEMBERS WITH NOTIFICATION OF AN ACTION**
6 **TAKEN AGAINST THE CREDENTIAL OF AN EDUCATOR BY OTHER MEMBER STATES OR**
7 **JURISDICTIONS.**

8 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

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

12 **(2) PAY ANY APPLICABLE FEES AND DUES ASSOCIATED WITH**
13 **MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION.**

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

15 **(1) UTILIZE THE EDUCATOR IDENTIFICATION CLEARINGHOUSE**
16 **THROUGH THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION TO SCREEN EACH**
17 **INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES, ON OR AFTER ~~OCTOBER~~ AUGUST 1, 2026, AN OFFER OF**
18 **EMPLOYMENT FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR AN EDUCATOR POSITION**
19 **THAT REQUIRES A LICENSE; AND**

20 **(2) ENSURE THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES AN OFFER**
21 **SPECIFIED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:**

22 **(I) APPLIES FOR THE APPROPRIATE LICENSE AFTER THE**
23 **OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT AND BEFORE THE START OF EMPLOYMENT; AND**

24 **(II) OBTAINS THE APPROPRIATE LICENSE ~~BEFORE ANY~~**
25 **~~INTERACTION WITH CHILDREN.~~**

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

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2026.