

STEPHANIE SMITH
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

House Chair
Baltimore City Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3486 • 301-858-3486
800-492-7122 Ext. 3486
Stephanie.Smith@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB394: Public Schools- Fees for Summer School Courses- Prohibition

Hearing: March 18th, 2021; 1:00pm; Education, Health, and Environmental Committee

Chairman Paul Pinsky and Vice Chair Kagen, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Committee

HB394 would prohibit a local school system from charging a student a fee for enrollment in a summer school course if:

- The student attends a school in the local school district,
- If credit for the course is required for graduation,
- If the student previously took the course, but did not successfully complete or receive credit.

This bill limits the ability of local school systems to charge their students a fee for summer school courses that a student has already taken during the school year and is required for graduation. Local school systems vary in their practices regarding summer school fees. Most local school systems charge a fee for credit recovery courses, although many provide considerably discounted fees to students from low-income families.

For example, in 2018, Frederick County Public Schools generally charged \$200 per summer school course, but charged \$100 to students qualifying for reduced-price school meals, and charged no fee to students qualifying for free school meals. Fees for out-of-county students are typically higher than for school system students. With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education must establish minimum requirements for issuing certificates and diplomas by public and private high schools. According to regulations, to be awarded a high school diploma, a student must be enrolled in a Maryland public school system and have earned a minimum of 21 credits in specified subjects.

Let us ensure cost does not become a barrier to students successfully completing high school on time. While considerable obstacles to summer school affordability existed before the global pandemic, these obstacles have only become more widespread and acute. For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote favorably on HB394.

Sincerely,

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith