

SENATE BILL 492

P1, F5

71r2098

By: **Senator Britt**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Civic Literacy**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Civic Literacy; establishing the
4 membership of the Commission; requiring the Commission to elect certain
5 officers from among its members; requiring the State Department of Education
6 to provide staff and certain other support to the Commission; prohibiting a
7 member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but
8 authorizing a member of the Commission to receive certain reimbursements;
9 requiring the Commission to hold certain meetings; authorizing the Commission
10 to hold additional meetings under certain circumstances; requiring certain
11 officials to jointly call the first meeting of the Commission; requiring the
12 Commission to develop, support, and coordinate certain programs; requiring the
13 Commission to develop a clearinghouse on the Internet including certain
14 information; requiring the Commission to submit a certain report to the
15 Governor and General Assembly annually by a certain date; authorizing the
16 Commission to seek and use certain funds and services from certain sources;
17 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
18 Commission on Civic Literacy.

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Education
21 Section 24–601
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2006 Replacement Volume)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 **24-601.**

5 (A) **THERE IS A COMMISSION ON CIVIC LITERACY.**

6 (B) **THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

7 (1) **THE GOVERNOR, OR THE GOVERNOR’S DESIGNEE;**

8 (2) **THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, OR THE LIEUTENANT**
9 **GOVERNOR’S DESIGNEE;**

10 (3) **THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S**
11 **DESIGNEE;**

12 (4) **THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;**

13 (5) **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, OR THE PRESIDENT’S**
14 **DESIGNEE;**

15 (6) **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, OR THE**
16 **SPEAKER’S DESIGNEE;**

17 (7) **THE CHAIR OF THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND**
18 **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, OR THE CHAIR’S DESIGNEE;**

19 (8) **THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE,**
20 **OR THE CHAIR’S DESIGNEE;**

21 (9) **THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE**
22 **SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

23 (10) **THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, OR**
24 **THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

1 **(11) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND PARENT TEACHER**
2 **ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

3 **(12) A STATE COORDINATOR OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATORS’**
4 **BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM TO REPRESENT THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE**
5 **PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

6 **(13) A STATE COORDINATOR OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATORS’**
7 **BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM TO REPRESENT THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,**
8 **APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

9 **(14) THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION, OR**
10 **THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

11 **(15) THE STATE COORDINATOR OF WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN**
12 **AND THE CONSTITUTION;**

13 **(16) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE TEACHERS**
14 **ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

15 **(17) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS IN**
16 **MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

17 **(18) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE**
18 **SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;**

19 **(19) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND PUBLIC BROADCASTING**
20 **COMMISSION, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

21 **(20) THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF**
22 **MARYLAND, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

23 **(21) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND–DELAWARE–D.C.**
24 **PRESS ASSOCIATION AND THE MARYLAND D.C. DELAWARE BROADCASTERS**
25 **ASSOCIATION, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF EACH ORGANIZATION ACTING**
26 **JOINTLY;**

1 **(22) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CITIZENSHIP**
2 **LAW-RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE SCHOOLS OF MARYLAND, OR**
3 **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

4 **(23) A MEMBER OF THE POLICY STUDIES ORGANIZATION IN THE**
5 **UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

6 **(24) THE CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION THAT IS MULTICULTURAL**
7 **AND ACHIEVEMENT NETWORK, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;**

8 **(25) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL FOR THE**
9 **SOCIAL STUDIES, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

10 **(26) THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND**
11 **RESEARCH ON CIVIC LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT (CIRCLE), OR THE**
12 **DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE; AND**

13 **(27) TWO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN**
14 **MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT**
15 **COUNCILS.**

16 **(B) FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS, THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A**
17 **CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND ANY OTHER OFFICERS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS**
18 **FUNCTIONS.**

19 **(C) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE STAFF**
20 **AND OTHER NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION USING EXISTING**
21 **RESOURCES.**

22 **(D) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION**
23 **AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR**
24 **EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED**
25 **IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

26 **(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE EACH YEAR AND**
27 **MAY HOLD ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR OR AT**
28 **THE REQUEST OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE**
29 **SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTING JOINTLY**
30 **SHALL CALL THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION.**

1 **(F) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

2 **(1) DEVELOP AND COORDINATE PROGRAMS IN COLLABORATION**
3 **WITH SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS IN THE IMPORTANCE OF:**

4 **(I) REASONED DEBATE, GOOD FAITH, NEGOTIATION, AND**
5 **COMPROMISE IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY;**

6 **(II) INDIVIDUAL INVOLVEMENT IN CREATING SUCCESSFUL**
7 **COMMUNITIES; AND**

8 **(III) CONSIDERATION AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS IN**
9 **DELIBERATING, NEGOTIATING, AND ADVOCATING POSITIONS ON PUBLIC**
10 **CONCERNS;**

11 **(2) IDENTIFY CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS IN MARYLAND AND**
12 **PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE PROJECTS AS NEEDED;**

13 **(3) BUILD A NETWORK OF EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS TO SHARE**
14 **INFORMATION AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS;**

15 **(4) CONSULT WITH ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE**
16 **COMMISSION AS APPROPRIATE;**

17 **(5) DEVELOP A CLEARINGHOUSE THAT SHALL BE AVAILABLE ON**
18 **THE INTERNET TO INCLUDE:**

19 **(I) A DATABASE OF CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES, LESSON**
20 **PLANS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND BEST PRACTICES IN CIVIC EDUCATION;**

21 **(II) A BULLETIN BOARD TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION OF IDEAS**
22 **RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION;**

23 **(III) AN EVENTS CALENDAR; AND**

24 **(IV) LINKS TO CIVIC EDUCATION RESEARCH;**

1 **(6) SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN**
2 **MARYLAND AND ENCOURAGE THE EXPANSION OF THOSE PROGRAMS; AND**

3 **(7) REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**
4 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE**
5 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ANNUALLY ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR.**

6 **(G) THE COMMISSION MAY:**

7 **(1) SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND FUNDS FROM ANY SOURCE,**
8 **INCLUDING DONATIONS, STATE APPROPRIATIONS, AND FEDERAL GRANTS; AND**

9 **(2) SEEK, ACCEPT, AND USE SERVICES FROM INDIVIDUALS,**
10 **CORPORATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of
13 September 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
14 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.