

HOUSE BILL 1215

F1

EMERGENCY BILL

2lr2843
CF SB 736

By: **Delegates Boteler, Cluster, George, Glass, Hough, Ivey, Kach, McDermott,
A. Miller, Myers, Norman, Stukes, Walker, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Primary and Secondary Education – Online Courses – Acceptance of Courses**
3 **Approved by Other States**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Department of Education or a county board
5 of education to procure online courses and services that have been approved by
6 a state that the Department has determined has certain curriculum content
7 standards; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to
8 acceptance of online courses approved by other states and the State Department
9 of Education.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–1002
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 7–1002.

19 (a) The Department shall provide Maryland virtual learning opportunities
20 that include:

21 (1) Offering a distance–learning program to provide Maryland public
22 school students with equal opportunities to develop a strong academic foundation;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Offering expanded educational choices not otherwise available to
2 students through on–line courses and services; and

3 (3) Expanding the professional development opportunities available to
4 educational staff in Maryland public schools through on–line courses and services.

5 (b) With the approval of the State Board and the State Superintendent, the
6 Department shall:

7 (1) Develop on–line courses and services;

8 (2) Procure on–line courses and services;

9 (3) Develop standards for teachers and other school system employees
10 for the offering of courses or services on the Internet or through other developing
11 technologies; and

12 (4) Review courses and courseware to assure quality and alignment
13 with the Maryland content standards and other appropriate standards.

14 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT OR A COUNTY BOARD MAY PROCURE ONLINE**
15 **COURSES AND SERVICES THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY A STATE THAT THE**
16 **DEPARTMENT HAS DETERMINED HAS CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS**
17 **CONSISTENT WITH THE MARYLAND CONTENT STANDARDS.**

18 **[(c)] (D)** (1) There is a Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Fund.

19 (2) The State Board may set reasonable fees for on–line courses and
20 services.

21 (3) The fees charged shall be set so as to produce funds to support
22 maintenance of Maryland virtual learning opportunities.

23 (4) The State Board shall pay all funds collected under this subtitle to
24 the Comptroller of the State.

25 (5) The Comptroller shall distribute the fees to the Maryland Virtual
26 Learning Opportunities Fund.

27 (6) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund not subject to § 7–302 of
28 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

29 (7) Any unspent portions of the Fund may not be transferred or revert
30 to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the
31 purposes specified in this subtitle.

1 (8) The Legislative Auditor shall audit the accounts and transactions
2 of the Fund as provided in § 2–1220 of the State Government Article.

3 **[(d)] (E)** The State Board may adopt regulations to implement the
4 provisions of this section.

5 **[(e)] (F)** The Department shall submit to the Governor and, subject to
6 § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before
7 September 1, 2004, a report on the progress of the Maryland Virtual Learning
8 Opportunities Program, including a description of the available on–line courses and
9 services.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
11 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
12 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members
13 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
14 the date it is enacted.