

SENATE BILL 986

F1, M4

0lr1756
CF 0lr1667

By: **Senators Hester, Gallion, and Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education, beginning in a certain school
4 year, to implement a certain agriculture science curriculum; requiring each county
5 board to implement an agricultural education program that prepares students for
6 successful careers and informed choices relating to certain systems and for
7 opportunities in agriculture–related employment and higher education by providing
8 instruction and developing skills in certain areas through certain integrated
9 classroom and laboratory instruction, supervised agricultural experiences, and
10 leadership experiences and involvement in student organizations; establishing the
11 Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program to increase access to agricultural
12 education in the State; requiring the State Department of Education to implement
13 and administer the Program; requiring the Department to employ an individual to
14 act as a content leader for agricultural education and to administer the Program;
15 authorizing the Department to award grants to certain entities for certain purposes;
16 requiring the Governor, for a certain fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, to
17 include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Program; defining a
18 certain term; and generally relating to agricultural education programs in public
19 schools.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Education
22 Section 4–111.3
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

27 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



4-111.3.

(a) Beginning in the [2018-2019] **2021-2022** school year, each county board [is encouraged to] **SHALL** implement an agriculture science curriculum specified in subsection (b) of this section in:

(1) At least one public high school in the county; or

(2) At least one career and technology education center in the county.

(b) The agriculture science curriculum implemented under subsection (a) of this section shall be:

(1) Selected from existing curricula that have been developed by the Department; or

(2) Developed by a county board and approved by the Department.

(C) IN ADDITION TO IMPLEMENTING AN AGRICULTURE SCIENCE CURRICULUM, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL IMPLEMENT AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR:

(1) SUCCESSFUL CAREERS AND A LIFETIME OF INFORMED CHOICES RELATING TO GLOBAL AGRICULTURE, FOOD, FIBER, AND NATURAL RESOURCES SYSTEMS; AND

(2) A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE-RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION BY PROVIDING INSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPING SKILLS IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS, LEADERSHIP, AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH INTEGRATED:

(I) CLASSROOM AND LABORATORY INSTRUCTION RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES;

(II) SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE SERVICE OR WORK-BASED LEARNING; AND

(III) LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES AND INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN AGRICULTURAL FOCUS.

(D) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(2) (I) THERE IS A MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

1 **(II) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO INCREASE ACCESS**
2 **TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE STATE.**

3 **(3) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER**
4 **THE PROGRAM.**

5 **(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL TO ACT**
6 **AS A CONTENT LEADER FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND ADMINISTER THE**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 **(4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD GRANTS TO COUNTY BOARDS,**
9 **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER ENTITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING**
10 **PURPOSES:**

11 **(I) COMPENSATING TEACHERS FOR WORKING EXTRA DUTY**
12 **DAYS TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**
13 **PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES;**

14 **(II) PROVIDING FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED**
15 **IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION COURSES TO PAY DUES AND PARTICIPATE IN THE**
16 **MARYLAND FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA ASSOCIATION;**

17 **(III) TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING, INCLUDING**
18 **ATTENDANCE AT SUMMER TRAINING CONFERENCES; AND**

19 **(IV) MAINTAINING EXISTING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**
20 **PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENTING NEW DEPARTMENT-APPROVED AGRICULTURAL**
21 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.**

22 **(5) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,**
23 **THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION**
24 **OF \$785,000 TO THE PROGRAM.**

25 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
26 **1, 2020.**