

SENATE BILL 762

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By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – High School Graduation Requirements – Applications for Student**
3 **Financial Aid**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain public high school students, beginning in a certain
5 school year, to complete and submit a certain form to the U.S. Department of
6 Education, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or a county board of
7 education as a requirement for graduation; requiring a county board to waive a
8 certain requirement under certain circumstances; requiring the State Department
9 of Education to adopt certain regulations; requiring certain regulations to include
10 certain guidelines; requiring a county board to report certain information to certain
11 committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year for a
12 certain number of years; and generally relating to graduation requirements for
13 public high school students.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7–205.1(a)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Education
21 Section 7–205.1(h)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



7-205.1.

(a) The State Board shall establish high school curriculum and graduation requirements for all public schools in accordance with this section.

(H) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, AND EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH STUDENT, AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION, SHALL COMPLETE AND SUBMIT:

(I) THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; OR

(II) THE MARYLAND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION (MSFAA) TO THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.

(2) A STUDENT OR THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR STUDENT MAY SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY BOARD A FORM SIGNED BY THE STUDENT OR THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR STUDENT STATING THAT THE STUDENT UNDERSTANDS THE FAFSA OR MSFAA APPLICATION AND DECLINES TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FAFSA OR MSFAA.

(3) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF:

(I) 1. A STUDENT COMPLETES ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION IN THIS SECTION; AND

2. THE STUDENT'S PRINCIPAL ATTESTS THAT THE STUDENT HAS MADE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA OR MSFAA; OR

(II) A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT REQUESTS A WAIVER DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

(4) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT EACH STUDENT RECEIVES ADEQUATE SUPPORT IN COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE FAFSA OR MSFAA.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1 each year, beginning in 2022 and ending in 2027, each county board shall report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on

1 Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article:

2 (1) the number of students who completed and submitted the FAFSA or
3 the MSFAA in the immediately preceding school year;

4 (2) the number of students who declined to complete and submit the
5 FAFSA or the MSFAA in the immediately preceding school year; and

6 (3) the number of students who received a waiver under this Act in the
7 immediately preceding school year.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2020.