

## **Chapter 399**

**(House Bill 233)**

AN ACT concerning

### **Howard County Public Schools – Funding Accountability and Transparency Act**

**Ho. Co. 12-10**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to develop and operate a certain website that includes certain information about certain payments; specifying certain parameters of the website; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the development and operation of a searchable website by the Howard County Board of Education.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 5-116

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

#### **Article – Education**

**5-116.**

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

**(2) (I) “PAYEE” MEANS ANY PARTY WHO RECEIVES FROM THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AN AGGREGATE PAYMENT OF \$25,000 IN A FISCAL YEAR.**

**(II) “PAYEE” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

**1. A HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE WITH RESPECT TO THE EMPLOYEE’S COMPENSATION; OR**

**2. A HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREE WITH RESPECT TO THE RETIREE’S RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE.**

**(3) “SEARCHABLE WEBSITE” MEANS A WEBSITE CREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION THAT DISPLAYS AND SEARCHES PAYMENT DATA OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2012, THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP AND OPERATE A SINGLE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT NO COST THROUGH THE INTERNET.**

**(C) THE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE SHALL CONTAIN HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PAYMENT DATA INCLUDING:**

- (1) THE NAME OF A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT;**
- (2) THE LOCATION OF A PAYEE BY ZIP CODE; AND**
- (3) THE AMOUNT OF A PAYMENT.**

**(D) THE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE SHALL ALLOW THE USER TO:**

**(1) SEARCH DATA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER; AND**

**(2) SEARCH BY THE FOLLOWING DATA FIELDS:**

**(I) A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT; AND**

**(II) THE ZIP CODE OF A PAYEE RECEIVING A PAYMENT.**

**(E) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION THAT IS CONFIDENTIAL UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW.**

**(F) THIS SECTION SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE “HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT”.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

**Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.**