

Chapter 373

(Senate Bill 43)

AN ACT concerning

High School Diploma by Examination – Eligibility Requirements – Exemption

FOR the purpose of exempting certain individuals from certain eligibility requirements to obtain a high school diploma by examination if the individual participates in a certain program; and generally relating to the eligibility requirements to obtain a high school diploma by examination.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Labor and Employment
 Section 11–808
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Labor and Employment

11–808.

(a) An individual may obtain a high school diploma by examination as provided in this section if the individual:

- (1) has not obtained a high school diploma;
- (2) resides in this State; **AND**
- (3) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:**

(I) is not subject to compulsory school attendance under § 7–301 of the Education Article; and

[(4)] (II) has withdrawn from a regular full–time public or private school program.

(B) AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS SECTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATES IN A GED OPTION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THAT CREATES A PATHWAY TO A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY EXAMINATION FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS

UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED INTERRUPTED EDUCATION AND HAVE A LOWER LEVEL OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY THAN THEIR PEERS.

[(b)] (C) The Department shall offer examinations to individuals who are pursuing a high school diploma under this subtitle at least twice each year at places throughout the State that are reasonably convenient for the applicants.

[(c)] (D) The examination shall:

- (1) be offered in appropriate high school subject areas; and
- (2) be of a comprehensive nature as determined by the State Board of Education.

[(d)] (E) An individual who fails an examination may repeat taking the examination.

[(e)] (F) A current member of the armed forces is exempt from the residency requirement in subsection (a)(2) of this section and may earn a Maryland high school diploma by achieving a passing score on the examination offered under subsection **[(b)] (C)** of this section.

[(f)] (G) The diploma shall be awarded in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Secretary and the State Board of Education.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.