

SENATE BILL 604

F1, F2

0lr1620

By: **Senators Currie, Dyson, Kasemeyer, and Munson**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2010
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **College and Career Readiness Act of 2010**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain State agencies to adopt a definition of college
4 and career readiness; requiring the adoption of a common assessment and
5 benchmarks to show progress toward college readiness; requiring strategies and
6 curricula to be developed and implemented to ensure students are college ready
7 and are successful in college; requiring the State Department of Education to
8 develop outreach programs for the dissemination of certain information;
9 requiring certain State agencies to review periodically a certain definition and
10 strategies; requiring certain federal grant funds to be used to implement this
11 Act; requiring a certain report on or before certain dates; and generally relating
12 to college and career readiness of students in Maryland.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is an expectation that every child of the State shall have the skills
16 and knowledge necessary to be accepted into and succeed at a Maryland public college
17 or university and that the State shall implement expeditiously subsections (b) through
18 (h) of this section.

19 (b) By July 2011, the State Department of Education and the Maryland
20 Higher Education Commission shall:

21 (1) (i) develop and adopt a definition of the skills and knowledge
22 required of a student in order to be college ready; and

23 (ii) incorporate in the definition that to be college ready also
24 means a student is ready for career or vocational training;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) develop and adopt one common assessment to be accepted by
2 primary and secondary education and all public colleges and universities of the State
3 that indicates a student is ready for introductory college level coursework;

4 (3) develop and implement strategies to ensure student success in
5 achieving college readiness; and

6 (4) develop and implement strategies for teacher preparation and
7 professional development.

8 (c) The State Department of Education shall develop and implement clearly
9 articulated benchmarks against which a student's progress toward college readiness
10 can be measured periodically from prekindergarten to grade 12.

11 (d) (1) The State Department of Education shall ensure all counties have
12 a curriculum for primary and secondary education that will lead to a student being
13 college ready.

14 (2) The curriculum shall require every student to take 4 years of
15 mathematics in high school including Algebra II.

16 (e) (1) The State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher
17 Education Commission shall develop and implement an outreach program to educate
18 students and their parents about the skills necessary to be successful in college and a
19 career and about the financial aid process for higher education including the types of
20 available aid such as federal, State, private, and institutional aid.

21 (2) The outreach program required under paragraph (1) of this
22 subsection should begin in elementary school, as appropriate, and be continued
23 periodically through grade 12, with particular emphasis on the transition from
24 elementary to middle school and middle to high school.

25 (f) Public colleges and universities should adopt and implement strategies to
26 ensure students are successful and complete a degree.

27 (g) Implementing this Act will require the cooperation and input of the
28 Governor, the General Assembly, the Maryland State Department of Education, the
29 Maryland Higher Education Commission, higher education institutions, local school
30 systems, the business community, and community organizations.

31 (h) The State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education
32 Commission shall review periodically the definition of college readiness and ensure the
33 successful implementation of any strategies developed to reach college readiness and
34 be successful in college and a career.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That funds awarded to
36 Maryland through the federal Race to the Top grant program shall be used to
37 implement the requirements of this Act.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December 1
2 of 2010, 2011, and 2012, the State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher
3 Education Commission shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly, in
4 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the implementation of
5 this Act.

6 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 July 1, 2010.