

HOUSE BILL 475

F1, F5

4lr0562

By: **Delegates Korman, Love, and Wolek**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program – Establishment**
3 **(Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program within
5 the State Department of Education; requiring the Department to administer the
6 Program; authorizing certain organizations to apply for grants from the Program;
7 and generally relating to the Open–Source Phonics Matching Grant Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–135

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7–135.**

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

19 **(2) “OPEN–SOURCE” MEANS MATERIAL WITH EITHER FREELY**
20 **OBTAINABLE SOURCE CODE, A LICENSE FOR MODIFICATION, OR PERMISSION FOR**
21 **FREE DISTRIBUTION.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) “OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT**
2 **ORGANIZATION OR PUBLIC LIBRARY THAT PRODUCES OR DISTRIBUTES FREE,**
3 **OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS MATERIALS IN THE STATE.**

4 **(4) “PHONICS” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4-136 OF THIS**
5 **ARTICLE.**

6 **(5) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS MATCHING**
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 **(B) THERE IS AN OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM IN**
9 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

10 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO**
11 **OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE FREE, OPEN-SOURCE**
12 **PHONICS LEARNING MATERIALS TO BE USED BY ADULTS TO TUTOR STUDENTS IN**
13 **THE STATE.**

14 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

15 **(E) (1) AN OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATION MAY SUBMIT AN**
16 **APPLICATION FOR A GRANT ON THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES.**

17 **(2) AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT SHALL INCLUDE A PLAN TO**
18 **ENSURE THAT THE OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS ORGANIZATION IS ABLE TO PROVIDE**
19 **FREE, OPEN-SOURCE PHONICS LEARNING MATERIALS TO ENABLE ADULTS TO**
20 **TUTOR STUDENTS IN THE STATE.**

21 **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISBURSE GRANTS TO OPEN-SOURCE**
22 **PHONICS ORGANIZATIONS.**

23 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

24 **(1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND EVERY OTHER YEAR**
25 **THEREAFTER, REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**
26 **THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
27 **ARTICLE; AND**

28 **(2) COLLECT STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR**
29 **THIS PURPOSE.**

30 **(G) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**
31 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE PROGRAM.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2024.