

Chapter 291

(House Bill 745)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning within the Department of Education; requiring the Department to provide staff for the Council; establishing the mission of the Council; identifying the membership of the Council; establishing the membership term; requiring the State Superintendent or the Governor to appoint a member in the event of a vacancy; requiring the Council members to elect the Council chair; prohibiting a member from receiving compensation except under certain circumstances; establishing a quorum of the Council; requiring the Council to meet for a certain number of times; establishing the responsibilities of the Council; requiring the Council to submit a certain report by a certain time; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–10B–01 through 7–10B–06 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10B.
Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 10B. MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING.

7–10B–01.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COUNCIL” MEANS THE MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING.

7–10B–02.

(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL.

7-10B-03.

THE MISSION OF THE COUNCIL IS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS OF ONLINE LEARNING AND STATE LAW.

7-10B-04.

(A) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING ~~15~~ MEMBERS:

(1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES OFFICE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT;

(3) ~~ONE MEMBER~~ TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

(4) ~~ONE MEMBER~~ TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

(5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

(I) ONE LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS;

(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION;

(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION; ~~AND~~

(IV) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF VIRTUAL LEARNING PROVIDERS;

(V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY;

(VI) ONE PARENT OF A STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES;

(VII) ONE SCHOOL TEACHER ENGAGED IN DIGITAL INSTRUCTION;

(VIII) ONE MEMBER OF THE BALTIMORE TEACHERS UNION;

(IX) ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION; AND

(X) ONE CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCATE; AND

(6) SIX MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT ARE EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL SCHOOLS THAT HAVE EXCELLED IN THE ABILITY TO INCORPORATE TECHNOLOGY INTO THE CLASSROOM.

(B) IN MAKING THE APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNOR AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF:

(1) ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE STATE; AND

(2) ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL.

(C) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER APPOINTED UNDER THIS SECTION IS 3 YEARS.

(2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS SHALL BE STAGGERED.

(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

(4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SHALL SERVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM OR UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

(D) THE GOVERNOR OR THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPOINT A SUCCESSOR IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL.

(E) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, A CHAIR SHALL BE ELECTED FOR A 3-YEAR TERM.

(F) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

7-10B-05.

(A) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS THEN SERVING ON THE COUNCIL IS A QUORUM.

(B) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST 4 TIMES DURING EACH ACADEMIC YEAR.

(2) THE COUNCIL MAY HOLD ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

7-10B-06.

(A) THE COUNCIL SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING:

~~(1) EXAMINE ALL STATE INITIATIVES TO PROVIDE DIGITAL CONTENT TO STUDENTS IN PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING PILOT PROGRAMS FUNDED BY LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL, OR PRIVATE FUNDS;~~

~~(2) ENSURE THAT STUDENTS FROM ALL GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS IN THE STATE HAVE ACCESS TO DIGITAL LEARNING;~~

~~(3) REQUEST INFORMATION FROM TEXTBOOK PUBLISHERS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER DIGITAL CONTENT;~~

~~(4) EXAMINE DATA REGARDING THE USE OF DIGITAL LEARNING TOOLS INCLUDING ONLINE LEARNING;~~

~~(5) CREATE STANDARDS FOR:~~

~~(I) AWARDING CREDITS;~~

~~(II) STUDENT ENROLLMENT;~~

~~(III) VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE; AND~~

~~(IV) ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE;~~

~~(6) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING:~~

~~(I) HIGH QUALITY DIGITAL CONTENT TO PROVIDE FREE ACCESS FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, OR HOME SCHOOLS;~~

~~(II)~~ (1) HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS REGARDING DIGITAL INSTRUCTION OR BLENDING DIGITAL CONTENT WITH TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION;

~~(III)~~ (2) FUNDING STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, INNOVATIVE OPTIONS IN COURSE PROVIDERS AND DELIVERY;

~~(IV)~~ (3) STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY;

~~(V)~~ (4) INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT DIGITAL LEARNING;

~~(VI)~~ (5) MOBILE LEARNING AND MOBILE LEARNING APPLICATIONS;

~~(VII)~~ (6) ALIGNING RESOURCES AND DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVES OF ALL STATE AGENCIES;

~~(VIII)~~ (7) COORDINATION OF DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMS TO PREVENT REDUNDANCY AND INEFFICIENCY;

~~(IX)~~ (8) PLANNING FOR CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL LEARNING;

~~(X)~~ (9) EXPANDED CURRICULUM FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, FOREIGN LANGUAGE, AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES;

~~(XI)~~ (10) INCREASING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR AT-RISK, HOME-BOUND, SPECIAL NEEDS, AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION STUDENTS; AND

~~(XII)~~ (11) IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR PROVIDING DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL STUDENTS IN THE STATE;

~~(7) REVIEW AND APPROVE ONLINE COURSES; AND~~

~~(8)~~ (B) PERFORM THE COUNCIL SHALL PERFORM ANY OTHER TASKS TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF THE COUNCIL.

~~(B)~~ (C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE ~~GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~ HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.