

HOUSE BILL 837

F5, F1
HB 1247/23 – HRU

4r1596
CF SB 33

By: **Delegates Wu, Arentz, Buckel, Crutchfield, Hartman, Hill, Hutchinson, Kaufman, and Pasteur**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of
4 certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing
5 postsecondary education and provide a method for certain individuals to authorize
6 the release of certain student information to certain apprenticeship sponsors and
7 employers; requiring each public high school to inform students of certain
8 employment and skills training opportunities in a certain manner; requiring a
9 county board to pay for a student to take an apprenticeship entrance exam or
10 industrial certification exam under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
11 career education and apprenticeships.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Education

14 Section 4–142

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Education

19 Section 7–203.1

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4-142.

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PLATFORM" MEANS A COLLEGE AND CAREER
3 READINESS SOFTWARE PROGRAM THAT HELPS SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND SCHOOLS
4 ALIGN STUDENT STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS TO POSTSECONDARY GOALS AND
5 CAREERS.

6 (B) A COUNTY BOARD THAT USES A PLATFORM SHALL:

7 (1) CONSIDER THE PURSUIT OF A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, AN
8 INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION, OR AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AS THE EQUIVALENT
9 OF PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND

10 (2) PROVIDE IN THE PLATFORM A METHOD FOR A STUDENT OR A
11 STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO CHOOSE TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF THE
12 STUDENT'S PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PLATFORM RESULTS TO:

13 (I) APPRENTICESHIP SPONSORS REGISTERED WITH THE
14 DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING UNDER § 11-405
15 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; AND

16 (II) EMPLOYERS REGISTERED WITH THE MARYLAND
17 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OR LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

18 (C) EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SHALL, IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH
19 THE SCHOOL INFORMS STUDENTS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS,
20 INFORM STUDENTS OF EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
21 AVAILABLE THROUGH:

22 (1) APPRENTICESHIP SPONSORS REGISTERED WITH THE DIVISION
23 OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING UNDER § 11-405 OF THE
24 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; AND

25 (2) EMPLOYERS REGISTERED WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
26 OF LABOR OR LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

27 7-203.1.

28 (a) (1) [For fiscal years 2003 and 2004, the Department shall distribute grants
29 to Tier I counties, as defined in § 1-101 of the Economic Development Article, for the
30 administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test to 10th grade students.

31 (2)] For fiscal year 2005 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Department
32 shall distribute grants to each county for the administration of the Preliminary Scholastic
33 Aptitude Test to 10th grade students.

1 **[(b)] (2)** Subject to the availability of funding in the State budget, the amount of
2 each county's grant shall be in an amount sufficient for the administration of the test to all
3 10th grade students in the county.

4 **(B) (1) (i)** IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
5 MEANINGS INDICATED.

6 **(ii)** "APPRENTICESHIP ENTRANCE EXAM" MEANS THE
7 TRADE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT USED TO EVALUATE A STUDENT'S BASIC APTITUDE
8 BEFORE THE STUDENT BEGINS THE PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING PHASE
9 OF AN APPRENTICESHIP.

10 **(iii)** "INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATION EXAM" MEANS THE
11 INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED ASSESSMENT THAT DOCUMENTS A STUDENT'S
12 PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND RESULTS IN THE
13 RECEIPT OF A CERTIFICATE, A LICENSE, OR ANY OTHER CREDENTIAL.

14 **(2)** IF A COUNTY BOARD PAYS FOR ANY STUDENT TO TAKE AN
15 ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION, A PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE
16 TEST/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST, OR A SCHOLASTIC
17 APTITUDE TEST, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL PAY FOR A STUDENT TO TAKE AN
18 APPRENTICESHIP ENTRANCE EXAM OR INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATION EXAM.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2024.