

SENATE BILL 451

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CF HB 325

By: **Senator King**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Adult Education – High School Diploma by Examination – Requirements and**
3 **Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to allow an individual to
5 take all components of the General Educational Development Test in the language
6 of their choice; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to certain
7 committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally
8 relating to examination requirements for a high school diploma by examination.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Labor and Employment
11 Section 11–808(a), (b), and (d)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Labor and Employment
16 Section 11–808(c)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Labor and Employment**

22 11–808.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) has not obtained a high school diploma;

2 (2) resides in this State; and

3 (3) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section:

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

6 (ii) has withdrawn from a regular full–time public or private school
7 program.

8 (b) An individual is not subject to the requirements of subsection (a)(3) of this
9 section if the individual participates in a GED Option Program administered by the State
10 Department of Education that creates a pathway to a high school diploma by examination
11 for currently enrolled high school English language learner students under the age of 21
12 years who have experienced interrupted education and have a lower level of English
13 proficiency than their peers.

14 (c) The Department shall:

15 (1) offer examinations to individuals who are pursuing a high school
16 diploma under this subtitle at least twice each year at places throughout the State that are
17 reasonably convenient for the applicants; **AND**

18 (2) **ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO TAKE ALL COMPONENTS OF THE**
19 **EXAMINATION IN THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR CHOICE.**

20 (d) The examination shall:

21 (1) be offered in appropriate high school subject areas; and

22 (2) be of a comprehensive nature as determined by the State Board of
23 Education.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

25 (a) The Maryland Department of Labor shall:

26 (1) identify other appropriate languages in which to offer the General
27 Educational Development Test for adult learners in the State; and

28 (2) study the feasibility and cost of offering the examination in additional
29 languages.

30 (b) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department shall submit, in accordance
31 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, a report of its findings and

1 recommendations from the study required under this section to the Senate Finance
2 Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2025.