

# SENATE BILL 689

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By: **Senator Shank**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning – Establishment**

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

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

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

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 **SUBTITLE 10B. MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING.**

24 **7–10B–01.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **7-10B-02.**

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

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

8 **7-10B-03.**

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

12 **7-10B-04.**

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

14                   (1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OR THE STATE  
15 SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE;

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

18                   (3) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY  
19 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

20                   (4) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF MARYLAND  
21 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

22                   (5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

23                           (I) ONE LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS;

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

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

1 (IV) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF VIRTUAL LEARNING  
2 PROVIDERS; AND

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

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

9 (1) ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE STATE; AND

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

12 (C) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER APPOINTED UNDER THIS SECTION IS  
13 3 YEARS.

14 (2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS SHALL BE STAGGERED.

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

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

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

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

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

27 7-10B-05.

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

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

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

5 **7-10B-06.**

6           **(A) THE COUNCIL SHALL:**

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

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

13                   **(3) REQUEST INFORMATION FROM TEXTBOOK PUBLISHERS**  
14 **ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER DIGITAL**  
15 **CONTENT;**

16                   **(4) EXAMINE DATA REGARDING THE USE OF DIGITAL LEARNING**  
17 **TOOLS INCLUDING ONLINE LEARNING;**

18                   **(5) CREATE STANDARDS FOR:**

19                           **(I) AWARDING CREDITS;**

20                           **(II) STUDENT ENROLLMENT;**

21                           **(III) VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE; AND**

22                           **(IV) ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE;**

23                   **(6) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING:**

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

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

4                   **(III) FUNDING STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY,**  
5 **INNOVATIVE OPTIONS IN COURSE PROVIDERS AND DELIVERY;**

6                   **(IV) STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY;**

7                   **(V) INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT DIGITAL**  
8 **LEARNING;**

9                   **(VI) MOBILE LEARNING AND MOBILE LEARNING**  
10 **APPLICATIONS;**

11                   **(VII) ALIGNING RESOURCES AND DIGITAL LEARNING**  
12 **INITIATIVES OF ALL STATE AGENCIES;**

13                   **(VIII) COORDINATION OF DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMS TO**  
14 **PREVENT REDUNDANCY AND INEFFICIENCY;**

15                   **(IX) PLANNING FOR CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL**  
16 **LEARNING;**

17                   **(X) EXPANDED CURRICULUM FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE,**  
18 **FOREIGN LANGUAGE, AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES;**

19                   **(XI) INCREASING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR AT-RISK,**  
20 **HOME-BOUND, SPECIAL NEEDS, AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION STUDENTS; AND**

21                   **(XII) IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR PROVIDING DIGITAL**  
22 **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL STUDENTS IN THE STATE;**

23                   **(7) REVIEW AND APPROVE ONLINE COURSES; AND**

24                   **(8) PERFORM ANY OTHER TASKS TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF**  
25 **THE COUNCIL.**

26                   **(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHALL**  
27 **REPORT TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246**  
28 **OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

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