

SENATE BILL 735

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EMERGENCY BILL

2lr2593
CF 2lr2842

By: **Senator Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Education – Online Courses – Approval Processing Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Board of Education to set reasonable fees for
4 the costs incurred by the State Department of Education for processing
5 approvals for online courses and services; making this Act an emergency
6 measure; and generally relating to online course approval processing fees and
7 the State Board of Education.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7–1002
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 7–1002.

17 (a) The Department shall provide Maryland virtual learning opportunities
18 that include:

19 (1) Offering a distance–learning program to provide Maryland public
20 school students with equal opportunities to develop a strong academic foundation;

21 (2) Offering expanded educational choices not otherwise available to
22 students through on–line courses and services; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) Expanding the professional development opportunities available to
2 educational staff in Maryland public schools through on-line courses and services.

3 (b) With the approval of the State Board and the State Superintendent, the
4 Department shall:

5 (1) Develop on-line courses and services;

6 (2) Procure on-line courses and services;

7 (3) Develop standards for teachers and other school system employees
8 for the offering of courses or services on the Internet or through other developing
9 technologies; and

10 (4) Review courses and courseware to assure quality and alignment
11 with the Maryland content standards and other appropriate standards.

12 (c) (1) There is a Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Fund.

13 (2) The State Board may set reasonable fees for [on-line]:

14 (I) **ONLINE** courses and services; **AND**

15 (II) **PROCESSING APPROVALS FOR ONLINE COURSES AND**
16 **SERVICES.**

17 (3) The fees charged shall be set so as to produce funds to support
18 maintenance of Maryland virtual learning opportunities.

19 (4) The State Board shall pay all funds collected under this subtitle to
20 the Comptroller of the State.

21 (5) The Comptroller shall distribute the fees to the Maryland Virtual
22 Learning Opportunities Fund.

23 (6) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund not subject to § 7-302 of
24 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

25 (7) Any unspent portions of the Fund may not be transferred or revert
26 to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the
27 purposes specified in this subtitle.

28 (8) The Legislative Auditor shall audit the accounts and transactions
29 of the Fund as provided in § 2-1220 of the State Government Article.

1 (d) The State Board may adopt regulations to implement the provisions of
2 this section.

3 (e) The Department shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of
4 the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before September 1, 2004,
5 a report on the progress of the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program,
6 including a description of the available on-line courses and services.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
8 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
9 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
10 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
11 the date it is enacted.