

# SENATE BILL 762

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SB 271/23 – EEE

4lr1037

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By: **Senators Kagan and Ready**  
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2024  
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 22, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Civic Excellence Program as a voluntary  
4 program in which local school systems may participate to recognize students and  
5 public schools that promote the civic readiness and civic engagement of students in  
6 public schools in the State; and generally relating to the establishment of the  
7 Maryland Civic Excellence Program.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 4–142  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **4–142.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND CIVIC**  
18 **EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

19 **(B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CIVIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS**  
2 **AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT PROMOTE THE CIVIC READINESS AND CIVIC**  
3 **ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.**

4           **(C) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION APPLY ONLY TO A LOCAL SCHOOL**  
5 **SYSTEM THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

6           **(D) BEGINNING WITH THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH PARTICIPATING**  
7 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL:**

8                 **(1) AWARD A STUDENT A SEAL OF CIVIC EXCELLENCE IF THE**  
9 **STUDENT APPLIES AND MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL**  
10 **SYSTEM UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

11                 **(2) DESIGNATE A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS A CENTER OF CIVIC**  
12 **EXCELLENCE IF THE SCHOOL APPLIES AND MEETS THE CRITERIA ADOPTED BY THE**  
13 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION.**

14           **(E) AT MINIMUM, A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM’S CRITERIA**  
15 **FOR A SEAL OF CIVIC EXCELLENCE SHALL REQUIRE A STUDENT TO:**

16                 **(1) (I) TAKE THE MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT FOR**  
17 **GOVERNMENT; AND**

18                         **(II) MEET THE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
19 **GRADUATION;**

20                 **(2) EARN A GRADE OF A OR B IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING HIGH**  
21 **SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES:**

22                                 **(I) UNITED STATES HISTORY;**

23                                 **(II) MODERN WORLD HISTORY; AND**

24                                 **(III) AMERICAN GOVERNMENT; AND**

25                 **(3) COMPLETE AND DEMONSTRATE EVIDENCE OF AT LEAST 75 HOURS**  
26 **OF STUDENT SERVICE, OF WHICH AT LEAST 30 HOURS SHALL BE DEDICATED TO A**  
27 **SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT WITH A FOCUS ON COMMUNITY AND CIVIC**  
28 **ENGAGEMENT.**

29           **(F) A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL ESTABLISH**  
30 **APPLICATION CRITERIA TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

1 (G) AT MINIMUM, A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM'S CRITERIA  
2 FOR A CENTER OF CIVIC EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION SHALL REQUIRE A PUBLIC  
3 SCHOOL TO HAVE AT LEAST 50% OF THE STUDENTS IN ITS GRADUATING CLASS WHO  
4 HAVE EARNED A SEAL OF CIVIC EXCELLENCE.

5 (H) (1) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT DETERMINES A STUDENT HAS  
6 FULFILLED THE CRITERIA UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL:

7 (I) AWARD THE STUDENT A SEAL OF CIVIC EXCELLENCE;

8 (II) RECORD THE AWARD ON THE STUDENT'S OFFICIAL HIGH  
9 SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT; AND

10 (III) RECOGNIZE THE AWARD BY ~~ATTACHING~~ AWARDING A CORD,  
11 ~~MEDAL, OR~~ CORD OR MEDAL OR BY ATTACHING OTHER INSIGNIA ON THE STUDENT'S  
12 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

13 (2) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT DETERMINES THAT A PUBLIC  
14 SCHOOL HAS FULFILLED THE CRITERIA UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL:

15 (I) DESIGNATE THE SCHOOL AS A CENTER OF CIVIC  
16 EXCELLENCE; AND

17 (II) RECOGNIZE THE DESIGNATION BY PROVIDING ANY OF THE  
18 FOLLOWING:

19 1. A BANNER;

20 2. A GOVERNOR'S CITATION; OR

21 3. A CITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

22 (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, EACH  
23 PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A  
24 REPORT ON THE PROGRAM BASED ON THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED SCHOOL  
25 YEAR.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2024.