

SENATE BILL 97

F1, F5

5lr0743

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator McCray**

Requested: September 5, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Youth Enhancement Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Youth Enhancement Program within the State
4 Department of Education to provide grants to certain nonprofit organizations to
5 provide certain services to certain individuals residing in or attending public school
6 in Baltimore City or Baltimore County; and generally relating to the Youth
7 Enhancement Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–136

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 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 **7–136.**

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

20 (3) “TARGETED INDIVIDUALS” MEANS EARLY ADOLESCENT
21 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(I) RESIDE IN OR ATTEND ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN BALTIMORE CITY OR BALTIMORE COUNTY;

(II) AT THE TIME OF FIRST RECEIVING SERVICES FROM A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS; AND

(III) ARE MEMBERS OF A HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUP WHO FACE OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVEMENT THAT MAY BE EFFECTIVELY MITIGATED BY LONG-TERM MENTORSHIP.

(B) THERE IS A YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT:

(1) ARE HEADQUARTERED IN A CENTRAL LOCATION IN BALTIMORE CITY; AND

(2) PROVIDE SERVICES TO TARGETED INDIVIDUALS THAT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS AND ADAPT TO THE NEEDS OF TARGETED INDIVIDUALS FROM EARLY ADOLESCENCE TO ADULTHOOD WITH A FOCUS ON MENTORING AND ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL INSTRUCTION THAT INCLUDES CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT INTO ADULTHOOD IN:

(I) LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELLNESS, INCLUDING ATHLETICS, EXERCISE, AND NUTRITION;

(II) MENTAL HEALTH;

(III) CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT; AND

(IV) COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS.

(D) THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO TARGETED INDIVIDUALS BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVE GRANTS UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE:

(1) PROVIDED DURING OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME AND OUT-OF-WORK TIME; AND

(2) DELIVERED PARTLY BY INDIVIDUALS WHO PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED SERVICES FROM THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

1 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

2 **(1) ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; AND**

3 **(2) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR NONPROFIT**
4 **ORGANIZATIONS TO APPLY TO THE PROGRAM.**

5 **(F) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
6 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
7 **\$1,000,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.**

8 **(G) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 FOLLOWING EACH FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH A**
9 **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE PROGRAM, THE**
10 **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT:**

11 **(1) PROVIDES DATA ON THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO TARGETED**
12 **INDIVIDUALS; AND**

13 **(2) TRACKS STUDENT PROGRESS THROUGH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.**

14 **(H) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2028, AND EACH DECEMBER 1**
15 **THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL**
16 **ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,**
17 **THAT SUMMARIZES THE REPORTS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (G)**
18 **OF THIS SECTION.**

19 **(2) THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE**
20 **INFORMATION ON THE GRANTS DISTRIBUTED EACH FISCAL YEAR.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2025.