

CHAPTER 474

(House Bill 794)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program in the State Department of Education; providing for the purpose of the Program; authorizing the Department to select certain school districts and a certain number of teaching candidates to participate in the Program; requiring the Department to share in the cost of providing a certain stipend to certain teaching candidates under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to submit certain reports; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of the Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 6–117

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland is a leader in establishing innovative educational initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Maryland continues to experience significant teacher shortages, especially in critical areas such as science, mathematics, and special education; and

WHEREAS, Public schools at all levels in the State must continue to prepare students to meet the needs of the 21st century global marketplace by focusing on academic achievement in the fields of science, mathematics, and technology; and

WHEREAS, In order to meet the demand for new teachers, Maryland should expand opportunities for highly talented individuals with critical skills, work experience, and a commitment to instruction to enter the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, There are examples of highly successful alternative teaching programs around the nation, including Teach for America, New Teacher Project, and others; and

WHEREAS, This Act shall establish the Maryland Alternative Teaching Opportunity Program; now, therefore,

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