

SENATE BILL 43

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(PRE-FILED)

8lr0074
CF 8lr0103

By: **Chair, Finance Committee and Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor, Licensing and Regulation)**

Requested: September 18, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Finance and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **High School Diploma by Examination – Eligibility Requirements – Exemption**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting certain individuals from certain eligibility requirements to
4 obtain a high school diploma by examination if the individual participates in a
5 certain program; and generally relating to the eligibility requirements to obtain a
6 high school diploma by examination.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Labor and Employment
9 Section 11–808
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Labor and Employment**

15 11–808.

16 (a) An individual may obtain a high school diploma by examination as provided
17 in this section if the individual:

18 (1) has not obtained a high school diploma;

19 (2) resides in this State; AND

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:**

2 **(I)** is not subject to compulsory school attendance under § 7–301 of
3 the Education Article; and

4 **[(4)] (II)** has withdrawn from a regular full–time public or private school
5 program.

6 **(B) AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF**
7 **SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS SECTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATES IN A GED**
8 **OPTION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
9 **THAT CREATES A PATHWAY TO A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY EXAMINATION FOR**
10 **CURRENTLY ENROLLED HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS**
11 **UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED INTERRUPTED EDUCATION**
12 **AND HAVE A LOWER LEVEL OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY THAN THEIR PEERS.**

13 **[(b)] (C)** The Department shall offer examinations to individuals who are
14 pursuing a high school diploma under this subtitle at least twice each year at places
15 throughout the State that are reasonably convenient for the applicants.

16 **[(c)] (D)** The examination shall:

17 (1) be offered in appropriate high school subject areas; and

18 (2) be of a comprehensive nature as determined by the State Board of
19 Education.

20 **[(d)] (E)** An individual who fails an examination may repeat taking the
21 examination.

22 **[(e)] (F)** A current member of the armed forces is exempt from the residency
23 requirement in subsection (a)(2) of this section and may earn a Maryland high school
24 diploma by achieving a passing score on the examination offered under subsection **[(b)] (C)**
25 of this section.

26 **[(f)] (G)** The diploma shall be awarded in accordance with the regulations
27 adopted by the Secretary and the State Board of Education.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2018.