

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 205 (Senator Rosapepe)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**High School Credit Clarification Act of 2018**

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This bill clarifies that a local board of education must award high school credit to a middle school student for online courses approved by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for high school credit. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is directed at local school boards.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:**

*Awarding High School Credit to a Middle School Student*

Chapter 686 of 2016 required a local board of education to award credit to a middle school student for any course for which a high school student would be awarded credit if the middle school student meets the same requirements as the high school student. MSDE advises that, in response to Chapter 686, guidance was given to local school systems that high school credit must be awarded for middle school courses. However, State regulations currently provide that, consistent with local school system policy and procedure, credit *may* be given for MSDE-approved online courses. If credit is to be applied toward minimum

graduation requirements, the MSDE-approved online course must be provided by the local school system.

*Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program*

There is a process established in statute to approve online courses for credit called the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program. After a specific online course is approved by MSDE, a local school system can choose to offer it to their students. Students must sign up for approved courses through their local school system. Local school systems have local requirements that students must meet to enroll in online courses.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 30, 2018  
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