

SENATE BILL 271

F1

3lr1319

By: **Senator Ready**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 4–142

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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 **~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

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 **(B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

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

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

8 **(D) ~~EACH~~ BEGINNING WITH THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH**
9 **PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL:**

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

13 **(2) DESIGNATE A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS A CENTER OF CIVIC**
14 **~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE IF THE SCHOOL APPLIES AND MEETS THE CRITERIA**
15 **ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.**

16 **(E) (1) AT MINIMUM, A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM'S**
17 **CRITERIA FOR A SEAL OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE SHALL REQUIRE A**
18 **STUDENT TO OBTAIN FOUR TOTAL POINTS UNDER THE PROGRAM BY EARNING AT**
19 **LEAST ONE POINT FROM AT LEAST FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

20 **(I) CIVICS–BASED ASSESSMENTS;**

21 **(II) SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES;**

22 **(III) STUDENT SERVICE;**

23 **(IV) VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES;**

24 **(V) SCHOOL–BASED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES;**

25 **(VI) NONSCHOOL–RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES;**

26 **AND**

27 **(VII) VOTER REGISTRATION.**

28 **(2) A STUDENT MAY EARN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT POINTS UNDER THE**
29 **PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS:**

1 (I) ONE POINT FOR EARNING A SCORE OF FOUR OR FIVE ON
2 ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CIVICS-BASED ASSESSMENTS:

3 1. THE STATE ASSESSMENT ON AMERICAN
4 GOVERNMENT; OR

5 2. THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT:

6 A. UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
7 EXAMINATION;

8 B. UNITED STATES HISTORY EXAMINATION; OR

9 C. COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
10 EXAMINATION;

11 (II) ONE POINT FOR EARNING A GRADE OF A OR B IN EACH OF
12 THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES:

13 1. UNITED STATES HISTORY;

14 2. MODERN WORLD HISTORY; AND

15 3. AMERICAN GOVERNMENT;

16 (III) ONE POINT FOR COMPLETING AT LEAST 120 HOURS OF
17 STUDENT SERVICE OF WHICH:

18 1. AT LEAST 50 HOURS MUST BE COMPLETED DURING
19 HIGH SCHOOL; AND

20 2. AT LEAST 20 HOURS MUST BE DEDICATED TO A
21 CIVICS-FOCUSED PROJECT;

22 (IV) ONE POINT FOR PARTICIPATING AS A VOLUNTEER IN ~~AN~~
23 ~~ELECTION-CAMPAIGN,~~ A VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITY, OR A PEACEFUL
24 DEMONSTRATION:

25 1. THAT IS A NONSCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITY;

26 2. FOR A PERIOD OF TIME DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL
27 SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND

28 3. WITH DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION;

1 (V) UP TO THREE POINTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A
2 SCHOOL-BASED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING:

3 1. RHO KAPPA NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR
4 SOCIETY;

5 2. RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS;

6 3. MOCK TRIAL;

7 4. A LAW ACADEMY PROGRAM;

8 5. MODEL UNITED NATIONS;

9 6. A LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATE, OR NATIONAL HISTORY
10 DAY COMPETITION;

11 7. NATIONAL HISTORY CLUB;

12 8. DEBATE CLUB;

13 9. WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION;

14 10. STUDENT PAGE FOR THE MARYLAND GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY;

16 11. ELECTED OFFICE OR CLASS OFFICER IN STUDENT
17 GOVERNMENT;

18 12. SCHOOL NEWSPAPER; OR

19 13. ANY CIVICS-RELATED ORGANIZATION, PROGRAM, OR
20 ACTIVITY APPROVED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM;

21 (VI) UP TO TWO POINTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A
22 NONSCHOOL-RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, INCLUDING:

23 1. MARYLAND 4-H;

24 2. GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA (CIVICS-RELATED
25 ACTIVITIES);

26 3. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (CIVICS-RELATED
27 ACTIVITIES);

1 4. **TAKING FLIGHT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL;**

2 5. **MARYLAND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL;**

3 6. **POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION CLUBS;**

4 7. **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY; OR**

5 8. **ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION, PROGRAM, OR ACTIVITY**
6 **APPROVED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND**

7 **(VII) ONE POINT FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE WHEN ELIGIBLE.**

8 **(F) AT MINIMUM, A PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM'S CRITERIA**
9 **FOR A CENTER OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION SHALL**
10 **REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO HAVE AT LEAST ~~75%~~ 50% OF THE STUDENTS IN ITS**
11 **GRADUATING CLASS WHO HAVE EARNED A SEAL OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~**
12 **EXCELLENCE.**

13 **(G) (1) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT DETERMINES A STUDENT HAS**
14 **FULFILLED THE CRITERIA UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

15 **(I) AWARD THE STUDENT A SEAL OF CIVIC ~~ENGAGEMENT~~**
16 **EXCELLENCE;**

17 **(II) RECORD THE AWARD ON THE STUDENT'S OFFICIAL HIGH**
18 **SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT; AND**

19 **(III) RECOGNIZE THE AWARD BY ATTACHING A CORD, MEDAL, OR**
20 **OTHER INSIGNIA ON THE STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.**

21 **(2) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT DETERMINES THAT A PUBLIC**
22 **SCHOOL HAS FULFILLED THE CRITERIA UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

23 **(I) DESIGNATE THE SCHOOL AS A CENTER OF CIVIC**
24 **~~ENGAGEMENT~~ EXCELLENCE; AND**

25 **(II) RECOGNIZE THE DESIGNATION BY PROVIDING ANY OF THE**
26 **FOLLOWING:**

27 1. **A BANNER;**

28 2. **A GOVERNOR'S CITATION; OR**

29 3. **A CITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.**

1 **(H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, EACH**
 2 **PARTICIPATING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A**
 3 **REPORT ON THE PROGRAM BASED ON THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED SCHOOL**
 4 **YEAR.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 6 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.