

# SENATE BILL 455

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4lr1815

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By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **College Preparatory Programs and College Admissions Applications – Fees –**  
3 **Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a county board of education from charging fees to certain  
5 students related to enrollment in or completion of certain college preparatory  
6 programs; prohibiting public institutions of higher education from charging certain  
7 high school graduates any fees associated with certain college admissions  
8 applications; and generally relating to fees for college preparatory programs and  
9 college applications.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Education  
12 Section 7–205.1(g)(1) and 15–101  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Education  
17 Section 7–213  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 7–205.1.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (g) (1) [Beginning in the 2023–2024 school year] **SUBJECT TO § 7–213 OF**  
2 **THIS SUBTITLE**, each county board shall provide all students who meet the CCR standard  
3 required under subsection (c) of this section with access to the following post college and  
4 career readiness (post–CCR) pathways, at no cost to the student or the student’s parents,  
5 including the cost of any fees:

6 (i) A competitive entry college preparatory program, chosen by the  
7 county board, consisting of:

- 8 1. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program;
- 9 2. The Cambridge AICE Diploma Program; or
- 10 3. A comparable program consisting of Advanced Placement  
11 courses specified by the College Board;

12 (ii) A program that allows a student, through an early college  
13 program or dual enrollment at a student’s high school and an institution of higher  
14 education to earn:

- 15 1. An associate degree; or
- 16 2. At least 60 credits toward a bachelor’s degree; and

17 (iii) A robust set of career and technology education programs that  
18 are recommended by the CTE Skills Standards Advisory Committee and approved by the  
19 CTE Committee and that allow students to complete:

- 20 1. A credit or noncredit certificate or license program, course,  
21 or sequence of courses, including a program, course, or courses taken through dual  
22 enrollment under § 15–127 of this article, at a secondary or postsecondary institution,  
23 through an Advanced Placement course at a secondary institution, or through an  
24 apprenticeship sponsor that leads to an industry recognized occupational–credential or  
25 postsecondary certificate;
- 26 2. A registered apprenticeship program approved by the  
27 Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within the Maryland Department  
28 of Labor; or
- 29 3. A youth apprenticeship program, under Title 18, Subtitle  
30 18 of this article.

31 **7–213.**

32 **A COUNTY BOARD MAY NOT CHARGE A STUDENT OR A STUDENT’S PARENTS**  
33 **ANY FEES RELATED TO THE ENROLLMENT IN OR COMPLETION OF:**

1           **(1) THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM; OR**

2           **(2) A COMPARABLE PROGRAM CONSISTING OF ADVANCED**  
3 **PLACEMENT COURSES SPECIFIED BY THE COLLEGE BOARD.**

4 15–101.

5           (a) Each public institution of higher education shall accept for admission any  
6 graduate of an approved public high school:

7           (1) Who is certified by [his] **THE** high school principal, based on standards  
8 of the State Board of Education, as qualified to pursue a course of study at the institution;  
9 or

10           (2) Who meets the admission standards of the institution.

11           (b) (1) Each public institution of higher education may accept, for special  
12 admission any student who has:

13                   (i) Completed the seventh grade; and

14                   (ii) A scholastic aptitude test combined score of 1,200 or an  
15 equivalent score on a nationally accepted college entrance examination.

16           (2) This subsection does not affect the State or local share of aid provided  
17 pursuant to § 5–202 of this article to the secondary school in which the student is enrolled.

18           **(C) A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY NOT CHARGE A**  
19 **GRADUATE OF AN APPROVED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE ANY FEES**  
20 **ASSOCIATED WITH AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AT THE INSTITUTION.**

21           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
22 1, 2024.