

# HOUSE BILL 888

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By: **Delegates Fair, Ebersole, and Kerr**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Initial Teacher Certification – Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for an initial teacher certificate to include  
4 passing a portfolio–based assessment of a nationally accredited teacher preparation  
5 program; and generally relating to initial teacher certification.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Education  
8 Section 6–126(a)(1)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Education  
13 Section 6–126(a)(2)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 6–126.

20 (a) (1) This subsection applies to individuals who have graduated from a  
21 teacher preparation program or an alternative teacher preparation program.

22 (2) Beginning on July 1, 2025, to qualify for an initial certificate an  
23 individual shall:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) Pass the subject-specific examinations under § 6–125 of this  
2 subtitle;
- 3 (ii) Meet one of the following qualifications:
- 4 1. Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, pass [a]:
- 5 A. A nationally recognized, portfolio-based assessment of  
6 teaching ability; or
- 7 B. **A PORTFOLIO-BASED ASSESSMENT OF A NATIONALLY  
8 ACCREDITED TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM; OR**
- 9 2. Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, complete a  
10 rigorous local school system teacher induction program that lasts for the lesser of:
- 11 A. 3 years; or
- 12 B. The amount of time a teacher may hold a conditional  
13 teacher certificate;
- 14 (iii) Meet one of the following qualifications:
- 15 1. Pass a basic literacy skills assessment approved by the  
16 Department under § 6–125 of this subtitle;
- 17 2. Hold a degree from a regionally accredited educational  
18 institution and have earned a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a  
19 4.0 scale or its equivalent on the most recently earned degree; or
- 20 3. Submit documentation to the Department of having  
21 received effective evaluations from a local school system for 3 years;
- 22 (iv) Pass a rigorous State-specific examination of mastery of reading  
23 instruction and content for the grade level the individual will be teaching; and
- 24 (v) Satisfactorily complete any other requirements established by  
25 the State Board.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2025.