

# SENATE BILL 552

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5lr3211  
CF HB 688

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By: **Senator Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – High School Graduation Requirements – Financial Aid Application**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each public high school student, beginning in a certain school  
4 year, to complete and submit a certain financial aid form to the U.S. Department of  
5 Education, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or a county board of  
6 education as a requirement for graduation; and generally relating to graduation  
7 requirements for public high school students.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–205.1(b)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Education

15 Section 7–205.1(m)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Education**

21 7–205.1.

22 (b) (1) The State Board shall establish high school curriculum, college and  
23 career readiness standards, and graduation requirements for all public schools in  
24 accordance with this section.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)     The State Board shall coordinate and consult with the Maryland Higher  
2 Education Commission, the Governor's Workforce Development Board, the Maryland  
3 Association of Community Colleges, and the Accountability and Implementation Board in  
4 performing its duties under this subsection.

5           **(M) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR, AND EXCEPT AS**  
6 **PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH STUDENT, AS A**  
7 **REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION, SHALL COMPLETE AND SUBMIT:**

8                   **(I) THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID**  
9 **(FAFSA) TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; OR**

10                   **(II) THE MARYLAND STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION**  
11 **(MSFAA) TO THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.**

12           **(2) A STUDENT OR THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR**  
13 **STUDENT MAY SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY BOARD A FORM SIGNED BY THE STUDENT OR**  
14 **THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR STUDENT STATING THAT THE**  
15 **STUDENT UNDERSTANDS THE FAFSA OR MSFAA AND DECLINES TO COMPLETE**  
16 **AND SUBMIT THE FAFSA OR MSFAA.**

17           **(3) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT IN**  
18 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF:**

19                   **(I) 1. A STUDENT COMPLETES ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS**  
20 **FOR GRADUATION IN THIS SECTION; AND**

21                           **2. THE STUDENT'S PRINCIPAL ATTESTS THAT THE**  
22 **STUDENT HAS MADE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA OR MSFAA;**  
23 **OR**

24                   **(II) A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT REQUESTS A**  
25 **WAIVER DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.**

26           **(4) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO**  
27 **IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

28                   **(II) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH**  
29 **SHALL INCLUDE GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT EACH STUDENT RECEIVES**  
30 **ADEQUATE SUPPORT IN COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE FAFSA OR MSFAA.**

31           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1 each year,  
32 beginning in 2027 and ending in 2032, each county board shall report to the Senate  
33 Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Committee on Ways

1 and Means, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on:

2 (1) the number of students who completed and submitted the Free  
3 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Maryland State Financial Aid  
4 Application (MSFAA) in the immediately preceding school year;

5 (2) the number of students who declined to complete and submit the  
6 FAFSA or the MSFAA in the immediately preceding school year; and

7 (3) the number of students who received a waiver under this Act in the  
8 immediately preceding school year.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2025.