

# SENATE BILL 529

F1, F2

(6lr2573)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Energy, and the Environment / Ways and Means and Appropriations* —

Introduced by **Senator Harris**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway ~~Program and Program~~**  
3 **Workgroup – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway~~  
5 ~~Program; requiring the State Department of Education to administer and~~  
6 ~~implement, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the~~  
7 ~~Program subject to a certain condition; requiring a Program student to be considered~~  
8 ~~a dually enrolled student for a certain purpose;~~ requiring the University System of  
9 Maryland to develop, in consultation with the State Department of Education and  
10 the Maryland Higher Education Commission, ~~the~~ certain recommendations for a  
11 Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program and ~~the~~ a teacher  
12 preparation pathway in a certain manner; establishing the Southern Maryland  
13 Early College Teacher Pathway Program Workgroup; and generally relating to ~~the~~  
14 ~~Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program and the Southern~~  
15 Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program Workgroup.

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#### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.*



1 ~~BY adding to~~  
 2 ~~Article – Education~~  
 3 ~~Section 7-2201 through 7-2204 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 22, Southern~~  
 4 ~~Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program”~~  
 5 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 6 ~~(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

7 BY adding to  
 8 Article – Education  
 9 Section 12-124  
 10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~  
 13 ~~Article – Education~~  
 14 ~~Section 15-127~~  
 15 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 16 ~~(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, Maryland faces a critical shortage of qualified teachers, especially in  
 19 high-need schools and rural areas such as Southern Maryland where local school systems  
 20 report persistent vacancies in core subject areas and growing challenges in retaining  
 21 educators; and

22 WHEREAS, The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future calls for expanding high-quality  
 23 pathways into the teaching profession, increasing college readiness, and improving  
 24 workforce pipelines in every region of the State; and

25 WHEREAS, Nationally, early college programs have proven to increase college  
 26 enrollment, degree attainment, and workforce participation — particularly among  
 27 first-generation and low-income students — and can be leveraged to build stronger and  
 28 more diverse teacher pipelines; and

29 WHEREAS, Despite strong national evidence of success, Maryland lags behind most  
 30 states in providing early postsecondary opportunities for its students; and

31 WHEREAS, As of 2023, Maryland ranked low nationally for dual enrollment  
 32 participation as a percent of high school enrollment at 10% and ranked low nationally for  
 33 dual enrollment as a percent of undergraduate enrollment at 7%; and

34 WHEREAS, As of 2022, participation in dual enrollment and early college programs  
 35 in Maryland is overly concentrated at community colleges with only 5% of students enrolled  
 36 through public four-year institutions — compared to approximately 28%

1 nationally — limiting exposure to bachelor’s degree pathways, including teacher  
2 preparation programs; and

3 WHEREAS, Southern Maryland’s geography, limited access to nearby four-year  
4 institutions, and workforce needs make it an ideal region for a program that bridges high  
5 schools, community colleges, and the University System of Maryland regional higher  
6 education centers to create a seamless teacher preparation pathway; and

7 WHEREAS, Establishing a Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway  
8 Program will align with the Blueprint’s goals; now, therefore,

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

### 11 Article – Education

#### 12 ~~SUBTITLE 22. SOUTHERN MARYLAND EARLY COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY~~ 13 ~~PROGRAM.~~

#### 14 ~~7-2201.~~

15 ~~IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND EARLY~~  
16 ~~COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM.~~

#### 17 ~~7-2202.~~

18 ~~(A) THERE IS A SOUTHERN MARYLAND EARLY COLLEGE TEACHER~~  
19 ~~PATHWAY PROGRAM.~~

20 ~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:~~

21 ~~(1) CREATE A STRUCTURED, CREDIT-BEARING PATHWAY FOR HIGH~~  
22 ~~SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BEGIN PREPARATION TO TEACH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY~~  
23 ~~EDUCATION;~~

24 ~~(2) EXPAND ACCESS TO AND ENSURE THE AFFORDABILITY OF~~  
25 ~~HIGHER EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE:~~

26 ~~(i) HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED IN HIGHER~~  
27 ~~EDUCATION; AND~~

28 ~~(ii) FROM RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE;~~

1           ~~(3) BUILD A STRONG AND DIVERSE TEACHER PIPELINE TO SERVE THE~~  
2 ~~STATE'S PUBLIC PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS; AND~~

3           ~~(4) SERVE AS A MODEL TO BE REPLICATED FOR REGIONAL~~  
4 ~~IMPLEMENTATION STATEWIDE.~~

5           ~~(c) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND HIGHER~~  
6 ~~EDUCATION COMMISSION, SHALL ADMINISTER AND IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM ON~~  
7 ~~COMPLETION OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE~~  
8 ~~PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 12-124 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

9 ~~7-2203.~~

10           ~~A PROGRAM STUDENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED A DUALY ENROLLED STUDENT~~  
11 ~~FOR PURPOSES OF § 15-127 OF THIS ARTICLE AND MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY~~  
12 ~~ANY COST THAT IS RELATED TO ENROLLMENT OR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM,~~  
13 ~~INCLUDING TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES.~~

14 ~~7-2204.~~

15           ~~THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE~~  
16 ~~PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

17 12-124.

18           (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
19 INDICATED.

20           (2) "PROGRAM" ~~HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-2201 OF THIS~~  
21 ~~ARTICLE~~ MEANS THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND EARLY COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY  
22 PROGRAM.

23           (3) "PROGRAM WORKGROUP" MEANS THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND  
24 EARLY COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM WORKGROUP.

25           (B) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION AND IN  
26 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMISSION, THE UNIVERSITY  
27 SHALL DEVELOP ~~THE~~ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SOUTHERN MARYLAND EARLY  
28 COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM AND ~~THE~~ A TEACHER PREPARATION  
29 PATHWAY IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND TO:

1           **(1) CREATE A STRUCTURED, CREDIT-BEARING PATHWAY FOR HIGH**  
2 **SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BEGIN PREPARATION TO TEACH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY**  
3 **EDUCATION;**

4           **(2) EXPAND ACCESS TO AND ENSURE THE AFFORDABILITY OF**  
5 **HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING STUDENTS WHO**  
6 **ARE:**

7                   **(I) HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED IN HIGHER**  
8 **EDUCATION; AND**

9                   **(II) FROM RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE;**

10           **(3) BUILD A STRONG AND DIVERSE TEACHER PIPELINE TO SERVE THE**  
11 **STATE'S PUBLIC PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS; AND**

12           **(4) SERVE AS A MODEL TO BE REPLICATED FOR REGIONAL**  
13 **IMPLEMENTATION STATEWIDE.**

14           **(c) (1) THE UNIVERSITY SHALL CONVENE A SOUTHERN MARYLAND**  
15 **EARLY COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM WORKGROUP TO DEVELOP THE**  
16 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM AND THE TEACHER PREPARATION**  
17 **PATHWAY IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND.**

18           **(2) THE PROGRAM WORKGROUP SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING**  
19 **MEMBERS:**

20                   **(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,**  
21 **APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

22                   **(II) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED**  
23 **BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

24                   **(III) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED**  
25 **BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

26                   **(IV) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, OR THE STATE**  
27 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

28                   **(V) THE CHAIR OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND**  
29 **IMPLEMENTATION BOARD, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;**

30                   **(VI) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

1 (VII) THE CHANCELLOR, OR THE CHANCELLOR'S DESIGNEE;

2 (VIII) THE SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AND  
3 STUDENT AFFAIRS OF THE UNIVERSITY, OR THE SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR'S  
4 DESIGNEE;

5 (IX) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
6 OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
7 DESIGNEE;

8 (X) THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,  
9 COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

10 (XI) THE PRESIDENT OF TOWSON UNIVERSITY, OR THE  
11 PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

12 (XII) THE PRESIDENT OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND,  
13 OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

14 ~~(XIII)~~ (XIII) THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN  
15 MARYLAND, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

16 ~~(XIV)~~ (XIV) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND  
17 ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
18 DESIGNEE;

19 (XV) THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS, OR THE COUNTY  
20 SUPERINTENDENTS' DESIGNEES, OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES:

- 21 1. CALVERT COUNTY;
- 22 2. CHARLES COUNTY; AND
- 23 3. ST. MARY'S COUNTY; ~~AND~~

24 ~~(XVI)~~ (XVI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH LOCAL UNION  
25 REPRESENTING EDUCATORS IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND, DESIGNATED BY THE  
26 UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE, WHO IS A LICENSED SCHOOL-BASED EMPLOYEE  
27 WITH EXPERIENCE IMPLEMENTING POSTSECONDARY READINESS OR EARLY  
28 TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS, FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES:

1 1. THE CALVERT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION,  
 2 DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT'S  
 3 DESIGNEE;

4 2. THE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF CHARLES  
 5 COUNTY, DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, OR THE  
 6 PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE; AND

7 3. THE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ST. MARY'S  
 8 COUNTY, DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, OR THE  
 9 PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE; AND

10 ~~(XIV)~~ ~~(XVI)~~ (XVII) ANY OTHER MEMBERS DESIGNATED BY THE  
 11 UNIVERSITY.

12 (3) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2029, THE UNIVERSITY SHALL REPORT  
 13 TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSION, THE GOVERNOR, AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
 14 WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE ~~GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~  
 15 SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND THE  
 16 HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE ON:

17 (I) THE PROGRAM WORKGROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
 18 THE PROGRAM AND THE TEACHER PREPARATION PATHWAY IN SOUTHERN  
 19 MARYLAND, INCLUDING:

20 1. THE STRUCTURE OF THE TEACHER PREPARATION  
 21 PATHWAY;

22 2. AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE TEACHER  
 23 PREPARATION PATHWAY; AND

24 3. ANY LEGISLATIVE OR REGULATORY CHANGES  
 25 NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEACHER PREPARATION  
 26 PATHWAY; AND

27 (II) THE USE OF STATE FUNDS TO DEVELOP THE PROGRAM  
 28 WORKGROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM AND THE TEACHER  
 29 PREPARATION PATHWAY IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND.

30 (D) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2028 AND 2029, THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
 31 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF ~~\$250,000~~ \$125,000  
 32 TO THE UNIVERSITY TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM  
 33 WORKGROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM AND THE TEACHER

1 PREPARATION PATHWAY IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
2 SECTION.

3 ~~15-127.~~

4 (a) (1) ~~In this section, "dually enrolled student" means a student who is dually~~  
5 ~~enrolled in:~~

6 (i) ~~A secondary school in the State; and~~

7 (ii) ~~An institution of higher education in the State.~~

8 (2) ~~"Dually enrolled student" includes a student enrolled in a credit or~~  
9 ~~noncredit certificate or license program, course, or sequence of courses that leads to~~  
10 ~~certification or licensure at an institution of higher education in the State.~~

11 (b) ~~A public institution of higher education may not charge tuition to a dually~~  
12 ~~enrolled student.~~

13 (c) ~~Subject to subsection (d) of this section, for each dually enrolled student who~~  
14 ~~is enrolled in a public school in the county, the county board shall pay 75% of the cost of~~  
15 ~~tuition for a public institution of higher education in the State.~~

16 (d) (1) ~~If there is an agreement before July 1, 2020, between a public school~~  
17 ~~and a public institution of higher education in which the public institution of higher~~  
18 ~~education charges less than 75% of the cost of tuition to a dually enrolled student, the~~  
19 ~~county board shall pay the cost of tuition under the existing agreement.~~

20 (2) ~~Every 2 years, a public school and a public institution of higher~~  
21 ~~education may evaluate and modify an agreement made under paragraph (1) of this~~  
22 ~~subsection.~~

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
24 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2030,  
25 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
26 of no further force and effect.