

# SENATE BILL 604

F1, F2

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By: **Senators Currie, Dyson, Kasemeyer, and Munson**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2010  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: April 3, 2010

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **College and Career Readiness Act of 2010**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain State agencies, in consultation with institutions  
4 of higher education, to adopt a definition of college and career readiness;  
5 requiring the adoption of a common assessment and benchmarks to show  
6 progress toward college readiness; requiring strategies and curricula to be  
7 developed and implemented to ensure students are college ready and are  
8 successful in college; requiring the State Department of Education to develop  
9 outreach programs for the dissemination of certain information; requiring  
10 certain State agencies to review periodically a certain definition and strategies;  
11 requiring certain federal grant funds to be used to implement this Act; requiring  
12 ~~a certain report~~ certain reports on or before certain dates; making certain  
13 provisions of this Act contingent on the receipt of certain funds; providing that  
14 certain provisions of this Act shall be null and void under certain circumstances;  
15 and generally relating to college and career readiness of students in Maryland.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is an expectation that every child of the State shall have the skills  
19 and knowledge necessary to be accepted into and succeed at a Maryland public college  
20 or university and that the State shall implement expeditiously subsections (b) through  
21 (h) of this section.

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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.



1 (b) By July 2011, the State Department of Education and the Maryland  
2 Higher Education Commission, in consultation with institutions of higher education,  
3 shall:

4 (1) (i) develop and adopt a definition of the skills and knowledge  
5 required of a student in order to be college ready; and

6 (ii) incorporate in the definition that to be college ready also  
7 means a student is ready for career or vocational training;

8 (2) develop and adopt one common assessment to be accepted by  
9 primary and secondary education and all public colleges and universities of the State  
10 that indicates a student is ready for introductory college level coursework;

11 (3) develop and implement strategies to ensure student success in  
12 achieving college readiness; and

13 (4) develop and implement strategies for teacher preparation and  
14 professional development.

15 (c) The State Department of Education shall develop and implement clearly  
16 articulated benchmarks against which a student's progress toward college readiness  
17 can be measured periodically from prekindergarten to grade 12.

18 (d) ~~(1)~~ The State Department of Education shall ensure all counties have  
19 a curriculum for primary and secondary education that will lead to a student being  
20 college ready.

21 ~~(2) The curriculum shall require every student to take 4 years of~~  
22 ~~mathematics in high school including Algebra II.~~

23 (e) (1) The State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher  
24 Education Commission shall develop and implement an outreach program to educate  
25 students and their parents about the skills necessary to be successful in college and a  
26 career and about the financial aid process for higher education including the types of  
27 available aid such as federal, State, private, and institutional aid.

28 (2) The outreach program required under paragraph (1) of this  
29 subsection should begin in elementary school, as appropriate, and be continued  
30 periodically through grade 12, with particular emphasis on the transition from  
31 elementary to middle school and middle to high school.

32 (f) Public colleges and universities should adopt and implement strategies to  
33 ensure students are successful and complete a degree.

34 (g) Implementing this Act will require the cooperation and input of the  
35 Governor, the General Assembly, the Maryland State Department of Education, the

1 Maryland Higher Education Commission, higher education institutions, local school  
2 systems, the business community, and community organizations.

3 (h) The State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education  
4 Commission shall review periodically the definition of college readiness and ensure the  
5 successful implementation of any strategies developed to reach college readiness and  
6 be successful in college and a career.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That funds awarded to  
8 Maryland through the federal Race to the Top grant program for the purpose of  
9 adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and  
10 the workplace shall be used to implement the requirements of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December 1  
12 of ~~2010, 2011, and 2012~~ 2011, 2012, and 2013, the State Department of Education and  
13 the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall report to the Governor and the  
14 General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on  
15 the implementation of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December  
17 31, 2010, the State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education  
18 Commission shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
19 Government Article, to the General Assembly, regarding the State's capacity to meet  
20 current and future demand for career and vocational training needs, and the impact of  
21 this Act, if implemented, on those needs and the State's capacity to meet them.

22 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 1, 2, and 3 of  
23 this Act shall be contingent on the receipt of funds awarded to the State through the  
24 federal Race to the Top grant program, and if the State does not receive these funds on  
25 or before June 1, 2011, Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this Act shall be null and void without  
26 the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

27 SECTION ~~4~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 5 of  
28 this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.