

**CHAPTER 305**

**(Senate Bill 384)**

AN ACT concerning

**Adult Education and Literacy Services - Waiting List - Funding**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to increase a certain appropriation in the State budget for certain fiscal years for the State Department of Education to distribute as Literacy Works grants in order to reduce the waiting list for certain adult education and literacy services; requiring the Department, in consultation with the General Assembly, to establish an ongoing method of funding adult education and literacy services to reduce a certain waiting list; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to funding for adult education and literacy services.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education

Section 5-218

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The economy of Maryland needs an educated workforce to be competitive; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 613,640 Maryland adults do not have a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, High school dropouts who earn a high school diploma can earn an extra \$7,000 in annual income; and

WHEREAS, The literacy level of a parent is the best predictor of a child's literacy achievement; and

WHEREAS, The National Adult Literacy Survey reports that 20% of Marylanders function at the lowest literacy level; and

WHEREAS, Maryland provides adult education and literacy services to only 4% of the target population; and

WHEREAS, Each year, over 16,000 Maryland adults apply to take the GED test and 45% fail the test due to lack of preparation; and

WHEREAS, Over 88,000 foreign-born residents who "do not speak English well" or "at all" entered the State since the last census was taken; and