

WHEREAS, 4,000 to 5,000 adults are on waiting lists for adult education and literacy services annually; and

WHEREAS, The task force appointed by the General Assembly in 2001 to study adult education-related services recommended increasing funding; now, therefore,

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

### Article - Education

5-218.

(a) (1) The Department shall distribute competitive grants for adult education AND LITERACY services in accordance with the State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy.

(2) The grants distributed under this section shall be based on need and performance.

(3) Grants under this section may be used for adult education and literacy services, including:

(i) GED instruction;

(ii) The Maryland Adult External High School Program under § 7-205.1 of this article;

(iii) English for Speakers of Other Languages;

(iv) Family literacy; and

(v) Basic skills and literacy instruction.

(b) (1) [Funding] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, FUNDING for the competitive grants under this section shall be as provided in the State budget.

(2) IN FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET EQUAL TO AN INCREASE OF \$1,500,000 OVER THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO DISTRIBUTE AS LITERACY WORKS GRANTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE WAITING LIST FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY SERVICES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Department of Education, in consultation with the General Assembly, shall establish an ongoing method of funding adult education and literacy services so that the waiting list for adult education and literacy services is reduced to the greatest extent possible. The State Department of Education shall report to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2006, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the established method of ongoing funding for adult education and literacy services.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005.