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4.8

Article - Education

Section 6-704(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Tax - General

Section 10-712

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland public school enrollments are projected to rise from 20% to almost 40% in some school systems by the fall of 2001; and

WHEREAS, The numbers of retirement-eligible teachers will be rising concurrently; and

WHEREAS, Teacher preparation programs are not producing enough graduates in areas of critical need; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly believes it imperative that Maryland move now to create incentives to attract and to retain high quality teachers in the State's public schools; now, therefore,

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

## **Article - Education**

5-206.1.

- (A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION TO PROVIDE COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE COUNTY BOARDS TO EXPAND <u>AND DEVELOP</u> MENTORING PROGRAMS FOR NEWLY HIRED TEACHERS.
- (B) (1) SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT ANNUALLY SHALL DISTRIBUTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO COUNTY BOARDS FOR EXPANSION OF MENTOR PROGRAMS FOR NEWLY HIRED TEACHERS.
- (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR AND DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION.
- (3) THE HICHEST PRIORITY FOR THE GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE TO MENTORING PROGRAMS FOR NEWLY HIRED TEACHERS IN AT RISK SCHOOLS.