

**CHAPTER 185****(Senate Bill 737)**

AN ACT concerning

**Education - Adult Education and Literacy Services**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland State Department of Education to distribute certain grants for adult education, based on certain factors, and in accordance with a certain plan; ~~requiring the Governor to include certain appropriations in the State budget for adult education and literacy services~~ providing that funding for certain competitive grants for adult education and literacy services shall be as provided in the State Budget; requiring the Department to create a method for funding certain adult education services; requiring the Department to submit a report of its methodology to the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to funding for adult education and literacy services.

BY adding to

Article - Education

Section 5-217

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume)

**Preamble**

WHEREAS, It is estimated that at least 613,640 Maryland adults lack a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Adult Literacy Survey, over 20% of Maryland adults function at the lowest literacy level; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 10% of Maryland residents are foreign born and most need to learn English language skills; and

WHEREAS, Only 42% of the incarcerated adults in Maryland who lack a high school diploma can be accommodated in State-mandated adult education programs; and

WHEREAS, Maryland currently serves only 3% to 4% of the estimated 729,640 adults with literacy needs; and

WHEREAS, Maryland invests \$45 per student for adult education, an amount equivalent to the cost of a GED textbook; and

WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2002 Maryland appropriated less funding for adult education than it did in fiscal year 1990; and