

WHEREAS, The State appropriation for adult education is less than half the amount that is needed to generate the \$75 federal match that is available for every \$25 of State funding; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that adult education has a 17% to 34% rate of return on investment in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dropouts who get a diploma can generate an estimated \$7,000 in additional annual income; and

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

WHEREAS, A Task Force to Study Adult Education appointed by the Governor and the General Assembly in 2001 studied adult education services, outcomes, workforce connection, and funding; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force to Study Adult Education recommended a substantial increase in the State investment for adult education services and that State appropriations be needs based; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

5-217.

(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR ADULT EDUCATION 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) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$2,400,800 FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

~~(2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR GRANTS~~