

Department of Education for further development of certain curriculum-based learning resources; requiring the Maryland Technology Academy to provide distance-learning activities to teachers during a certain time period; requiring the Department to provide Maryland virtual learning opportunities that include certain programs; requiring the Department, with the approval of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent, to develop and implement certain on-line courses and services; establishing the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Fund; authorizing the State Board to set certain fees; requiring the State Board to pay all fees to the Comptroller of the State; requiring the Comptroller to distribute certain fees; providing for the unspent portions of the Fund; requiring the Legislative Auditor to audit certain accounts; authorizing the State Board to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Department to submit a certain report including certain information to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the State Superintendent to track and issue certain reports on certain courses or services; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to technology for education in public schools.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7-901 through 7-906 and 7-1001

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7-1002

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the State of Maryland has made significant progress since 1995 in building the technology infrastructure and the technology skills and knowledge of teachers in its public schools; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that Maryland schools have improved and expanded Internet access thereby enabling schools to offer courses through the Internet and other new developing technology; and

WHEREAS, Schools face unprecedented challenges due to teacher shortages in critical content areas, the unavailability of courses in some schools, financial constraints, increased accountability, and insufficient resources for professional development; and

WHEREAS, A number of states and other jurisdictions have developed Internet-based instruction that is available and is being used by local school systems in Maryland; and