

## **HB 1415 – Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education**

(Sponsor: Speaker (By Request of Kirwan Commission) and Del. Kaiser, McIntosh, Jones, A. Washington, Luedtke, and Lierman)

On February 9, 2018, legislative leaders introduced [House Bill 1415](#), a bill which includes several policy recommendations of the Kirwan Commission. Brief descriptions of the bill's provisions are outlined below.

### **New Teacher Recruitment Program**

Establishes a comprehensive recruitment and outreach program designed to encourage the top 25% of high school graduates from each local school system to consider pursuing a Maryland professional teacher's certificate.

### **K-8 Literacy Grant Program**

Establishes an early literacy initiative in MSDE to assist up to 50 qualifying schools, in collaboration with a nonprofit organization, to implement an evidence-based literacy program in the school to work with participating students to meet literacy proficiency targets by the end of eighth grade or other literacy targets as determined by the department.

### **Mandated Level Funding for Prekindergarten Grant Programs**

Mandates "maintenance of effort" funding amounts to be included in future state budgets for the Prekindergarten Expansion Fund and the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program.

### **Concentration of Poverty Grants**

Establishes a learning in extended academic programs (LEAP) grant program to provide a grant to an eligible school (90% FRPM) to provide extended academic programming that has a positive measurable impact on the academic performance and overall well-being of students who are at risk of falling behind academic requirements. "Extended academic programming" includes an academic program offered before the school day, after the school day, or in the summer for a school with a high concentration of students in kindergarten through eighth grade living in poverty and at risk of falling behind academic requirements. Mandates funding in future state budgets.

### **Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program**

Mandates funding for the existing Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship program and changes the eligibility criteria. Scholarships may be used for 100% of tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board at any eligible institution. The service requirements are 1 year of teaching for each year of scholarship; and 2 years for Master's degree students.

### **Career and Technical Education Grant Program**

Established a career and technology education innovation grant program to provide funds to county boards of education to develop and implement a CTE curriculum framework that is innovative and includes best practices that are used by the best CTE programs around the world. To be eligible for a grant, a county board must form a partnership with a community college and an industry partner in developing an innovative CTE program to ensure that the program: 1. is of high quality; 2. is aligned with the skills needed by employers; 3. will lead to an industry-recognized license or certificate; 4. creates internship or apprenticeship opportunities; and 5. prepares students to successfully compete in a global economy.

### **Special Education Study Extension**

Extends from July 2018-July 2019 to Sept. 2018-Sept. 2019 the timeline for contracting for a study of special education processes and a cost comparison and analysis of how weights are used.

### **Kirwan Commission Extension**

Extends the life of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education until December 31, 2018.