

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0276R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mitchell, Kraft, Curran, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger, Middleton,
President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Harris, Young, D'Adamo, Conaway, Holton
Introduced and adopted: March 19, 2007

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**In Support of State Legislation – House Bill 150/Senate Bill 231 – Education – Funding
Formula for Adult Education and Literacy Grants**

FOR the purpose of supporting this legislation that would require the State Department of
Education to provide competitive adult education grants beginning in fiscal year 2008 for
specified eligible adult education providers, that funding for State adult education grants be
provided in the State budget, and provide for the manner of calculation of the amount of a
specified State adult education grant available for each county for distribution to specified
adult education providers; urging the Honorable Chair and Members of the House Ways and
Means Committee and the Honorable Chair and Members of the Baltimore City Delegation
to the 2007 Maryland General Assembly to support passage of the legislation; and
petitioning the Governor to sign the measure into law.

Recitals

This legislation seeks to increase Maryland's investment in adult education by establishing a
funding method that will ensure that Maryland has a sustainable and adequate adult education
and literacy program, as well as adhere to the Superintendent's Panel on Excellence in Adult
Education report that recommended that the State increase its investment in adult education by
\$26 million over the next 5 years.

According to the Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF), which is an independent network of
service providers, employers, and community members concerned about low-wage, low-skill
employment, the insufficient number of jobs that pay family-supporting wages, and the impact of
these issues on the economic development and revitalization of the Baltimore region, there are
nearly 1 million Marylanders in need of adult education services, and nearly 1 in 5 Maryland
adults lacks a high school diploma or GED. Adult education includes basic literacy, GED
services, and English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Maryland contributes less for adult education than nearly every other state. While Maryland
spends just over \$2 million on adult education or \$77 per adult student, the average East Coast
state spends nearly 6 times as much. The federal government, has proposed drastic cuts to adult
education funding for the Fiscal Year of 2006. Maryland has historically received 80% of its
adult education funding from the federal government, and the 2007 federal budget shows that
this funding will be cut by 74%. This dependance on federal funding puts all of Maryland's
adult education programs at risk.

The fact is that adult education programs pay off. Adults with a high school diploma earn
\$7,216 more per year than those who have dropped out of high school, according to the U.S.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 Department of Commerce. Maryland adult education students increase their earnings as much as
2 18-25% for minimum wage workers within 18 months. Adults who increase their education
3 levels are better able to compete for higher-skilled jobs that pay family-supporting wages.

4 Investing in the workforce will not only earn higher wages for those who become more
5 educated, but it will also help to keep Maryland businesses competitive. In a recent survey of
6 businesses conducted by the University of Baltimore, nearly two-thirds of the respondents cited
7 difficulty in finding qualified workers. In addition, businesses benefit from increased
8 productivity, comprehension skills and job satisfaction among workers who complete adult
9 education programs. We simply cannot let Maryland's Adult Education Programs lose funding
10 and fall by the wayside. In these times, it is more important than ever that we support and
11 continue to fund the programs that help educate our adult population, and make the Maryland
12 work force as strong as it has ever been.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
14 Body supports this legislation that would require the State Department of Education to provide
15 competitive adult education grants beginning in fiscal year 2008 for specified eligible adult
16 education providers, that funding for State adult education grants be provided in the State
17 budget, and provide for the manner of calculation of the amount of a specified State adult
18 education grant available for each county for distribution to specified adult education providers;
19 urges the Honorable Chair and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the
20 Honorable Chair and Members of the Baltimore City Delegation to the 2007 Maryland General
21 Assembly to support passage of the legislation; and petitions the Governor to sign the measure
22 into law.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Honorable Chair of the House Ways and Means
24 Committee is respectfully requested to include this resolution as part of the Committee record of
25 support for legislation proposals to create funding for adult education programs in Maryland.

26 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
27 Mayor, the Honorable Chair and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee, the
28 Honorable Chair and Members of the Baltimore City Delegation to the 2007 Maryland General
29 Assembly, the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of State Relations, and the Mayor's
30 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.