



# **Senate Commission on Adult Education**

**January 14, 2019**

**Senate Lounge – Rhode Island State House**



# Maryland Adult Education Case Study

- **May 2007:** Secretary Perez proposed transfer of adult education programs from Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR).
  - Proposal was part of broader Workforce Maryland initiative and responded to financial, structural and performance issues with adult education in the state.
- **April 2008:** Move brought to Maryland general assembly for consideration and approval.
- **Fall 2008:** Adult Education programs, including most staff, moved from MSDE to DLLR to create the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning.

# Maryland: Challenges along the way

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- **Accelerated timeline** led to operational challenges and frustration among stakeholders.
- **Rift between agencies** resulted in lack of communication and coordination.
- Additional **funding** was promised, but not immediately realized.
- **Leadership transition** at DLLR made implementation difficult.

# Maryland: Advantages of the Shift

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- Adult Education became lost in an education agency focused on “Race to the Top”; shift brought **greater attention to the work.**
- Workforce and Adult Education providers served the same populations, and the move more effectively **integrated education and job training activities.**
- Federal workforce and education programs, funding streams, and reporting were **all under one roof.**
- The move prompted **alignment of education and workforce data.**

# What Rhode Island Can Learn

If Adult Education moved from the RI Department of Education (RIDE), we would proactively:

- **Engage stakeholders** through existing and open committees.
- Leverage existing **collaborative relationship** with RIDE for a smooth transition.
- Keep **educational outcomes** at the core of the work while advancing workforce outcomes.
- **Ensure continuity** of day-to-day operations, reporting, and compliance.
- Plan for **operational costs** and staff transitions.