

HOUSE BILL 920

Unofficial Copy  
F1

2000 Regular Session  
0lr1453  
CF 0lr1957

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By: **Delegate Hixson**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Dignity for All Students Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain schools from discriminating against certain  
4 persons based on certain criteria; requiring the State Board to adopt regulations  
5 that establish certain penalties, policies, and guidelines; defining a certain term;  
6 and generally relating to the prohibition against certain schools discriminating  
7 against certain persons based on certain criteria.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article - Education  
10 Section 7-113  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article - Education**

16 7-113.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "DISCRIMINATION" INCLUDES CONDONING, FAILING TO  
18 ENFORCE RULES AGAINST, OR FOSTERING AN ATMOSPHERE THAT MAY LEAD TO,  
19 THE VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE OF A PERSON.

20 (B) A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR A SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES, OR BENEFITS FROM,  
21 STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MAY NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A PERSON BASED  
22 ON THE REAL OR PERCEIVED GENDER, RACE, CREED, AGE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN,  
23 MARITAL STATUS, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR, IF THE PERSON CAN  
24 PERFORM THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CURRICULUM WITH REASONABLE  
25 ACCOMMODATION FROM THE SCHOOL AND WITHOUT UNDUE HARDSHIP ON THE  
26 SCHOOL, MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY OF THE PERSON.

27 (C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:

28 (1) PENALTIES FOR A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION;

1           (2)     POLICIES TO CREATE A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN KINDERGARTEN  
2 THROUGH GRADE 12 THAT IS FREE FROM DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDES AND ACTS OF  
3 HATE AND HATE VIOLENCE;

4           (3)     GUIDELINES FOR TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR  
5 TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT:

6                   (I)     PROMOTE THE APPRECIATION OF DIVERSITY;

7                   (II)    DISCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISCRIMINATORY  
8 ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES;

9                   (III)   ENABLE A TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR TO  
10 PREVENT AND RESPOND TO ACTS OF HATE VIOLENCE THAT OCCUR ON SCHOOL  
11 PROPERTY; AND

12                   (IV)   RAISE THE AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY OF ALL SCHOOL  
13 EMPLOYEES TO POTENTIALLY DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOR;

14           (4)     GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATORY  
15 INSTRUCTIONAL AND COUNSELING METHODS; AND

16           (5)     ANY OTHER NECESSARY PROGRAMS OR GUIDELINES CONSISTENT  
17 WITH THIS SECTION IN THE DISCRETION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

18     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 June 1, 2000.