

# HOUSE BILL 1116

F1, J1

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By: **Delegates C. Wilson and Pena–Melnyk**  
Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2015  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Student Suicide Intervention – Required Procedures**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain public school employees who believe a certain student  
4 may be at risk of suicide to report the student to a certain qualified school  
5 professional; requiring a certain qualified school professional to assess a certain  
6 student using a certain checklist and notify certain individuals of a student's risk of  
7 suicide under certain circumstances; requiring a certain qualified school professional  
8 to complete a certain report and providing for the contents of the report; requiring  
9 certain school employees and certain administrators to complete certain tasks and  
10 notify certain individuals if a student is making an imminent suicide attempt;  
11 prohibiting certain students who are either at risk of suicide or making an imminent  
12 suicide attempt from leaving school property or being left alone without certain  
13 supervision; requiring the Department of Education, in collaboration with the  
14 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to develop a certain checklist and adopt  
15 certain regulations on or before a certain date; defining a certain term; and generally  
16 relating to student suicide interventions at public schools.

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Education  
19 Section 7–437  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Education**

25 **7–437.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL” MEANS A**  
2 **COUNSELOR, NURSE, PSYCHOLOGIST, OR SOCIAL WORKER WHO WORKS AT A PUBLIC**  
3 **SCHOOL IN THE STATE.**

4           **(B) (1) A TEACHER, AN ADMINISTRATOR, OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL**  
5 **WHO WORKS AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL WHO BELIEVES A STUDENT MAY BE AT RISK OF**  
6 **SUICIDE SHALL REPORT THE STUDENT TO A QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL.**

7           **(2) (I) AFTER A STUDENT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO A QUALIFIED**  
8 **SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL AS BEING AT RISK OF SUICIDE, THE QUALIFIED SCHOOL**  
9 **PROFESSIONAL SHALL:**

10                               **1. IMMEDIATELY ASSESS THE STUDENT TO DETERMINE**  
11 **THE STUDENT’S RISK OF SUICIDE USING THE CHECKLIST ESTABLISHED IN**  
12 **SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION;**

13                               **2. CONSULT WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER QUALIFIED**  
14 **SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL WHEN ANALYZING THE STUDENT’S RISK OF SUICIDE;**

15                               **3. NOTIFY THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, ADMINISTRATORS,**  
16 **AND COUNSELORS OF THE STUDENT’S RISK OF SUICIDE; AND**

17                               **4. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
18 **PARAGRAPH, INFORM THE STUDENT’S PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT’S**  
19 **RISK OF SUICIDE.**

20                               **(II) IF THE QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DETERMINES**  
21 **THAT THE STUDENT’S BEHAVIOR IS BECAUSE OF PARENTAL OR GUARDIAN ABUSE OR**  
22 **NEGLECT, THE QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL MAY NOT INFORM THE PARENT**  
23 **OR GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT’S RISK OF SUICIDE.**

24           **(3) IF A QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL BELIEVES THAT THE**  
25 **STUDENT’S RISK OF SUICIDE IS SIGNIFICANT, THE QUALIFIED SCHOOL**  
26 **PROFESSIONAL SHALL:**

27                               **(I) REFER THE STUDENT TO THE APPROPRIATE MENTAL**  
28 **HEALTH SERVICES; AND**

29                               **(II) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS**  
30 **SECTION, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE STUDENT’S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, NOTIFY**  
31 **THE STUDENT’S ONGOING THERAPIST, IF APPLICABLE.**

1           **(4) (I) AFTER A QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL COMPLETES**  
2 **THE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
3 **QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL SHALL COMPLETE A REPORT SUMMARIZING**  
4 **THE ASSESSMENT.**

5           **(II) THE REPORT REQUIRED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**  
6 **PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE:**

7                   **1. THE BEHAVIOR OF CONCERN PRESENT IN THE**  
8 **STUDENT AT THE TIME OF THE ASSESSMENT;**

9                   **2. PAST SYMPTOMS AND BEHAVIORS MENTIONED BY**  
10 **THE STUDENT THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH RISK OF SUICIDE; AND**

11                   **3. THE DATE AND TIME THE QUALIFIED SCHOOL**  
12 **PROFESSIONAL CONTACTED THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN AND THE**  
13 **PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S RESPONSE.**

14           **(C) IF A STUDENT IS MAKING AN IMMINENT SUICIDE ATTEMPT ON SCHOOL**  
15 **PROPERTY:**

16                   **(1) THE FIRST SCHOOL EMPLOYEE WHO EITHER FINDS THE STUDENT**  
17 **OR IS NOTIFIED OF THE SITUATION SHALL:**

18                           **(I) NOTIFY A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SITUATION;**

19                           **(II) REMAIN WITH THE STUDENT UNTIL A QUALIFIED SCHOOL**  
20 **PROFESSIONAL OR THE POLICE ARRIVE AT THE LOCATION; AND**

21                           **(III) ATTEMPT TO CALM THE STUDENT UNTIL A QUALIFIED**  
22 **SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL OR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ARRIVES; AND**

23                   **(2) AFTER BEING INFORMED OF THE SITUATION, A SCHOOL**  
24 **ADMINISTRATOR SHALL:**

25                           **(I) IMMEDIATELY CALL 9-1-1 AND REQUEST POLICE AND**  
26 **EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE;**

27                           **(II) ENSURE THAT A QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL**  
28 **IMMEDIATELY REPORTS TO WHERE THE STUDENT IS LOCATED;**

1 (III) NOTIFY THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE  
2 SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND REQUEST FOR THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO COME TO THE  
3 SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY; AND

4 (IV) NOTIFY THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

5 (D) A STUDENT AT RISK OF SUICIDE OR A STUDENT MAKING AN IMMINENT  
6 SUICIDE ATTEMPT MAY NOT BE:

7 (1) ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL PROPERTY UNTIL A QUALIFIED  
8 SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DEEMS THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL; OR

9 (2) LEFT ALONE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY WITHOUT SUPERVISION BY A  
10 SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.

11 (E) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2016, THE DEPARTMENT, IN  
12 COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE,  
13 SHALL:

14 (I) DEVELOP A CRISIS INTERVENTION CHECKLIST THAT A  
15 QUALIFIED SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL SHALL USE DURING AN ASSESSMENT OF A  
16 STUDENT'S RISK OF SUICIDE; AND

17 (II) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF  
18 THIS SECTION.

19 (2) THE CRISIS INTERVENTION CHECKLIST REFERRED TO IN  
20 PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

21 (I) ASSESS THE STUDENT FOR RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED  
22 WITH SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR, INCLUDING AT-HOME INDICATORS AND AT-SCHOOL  
23 INDICATORS; AND

24 (II) DETERMINE:

25 1. THE NATURE OF THE STUDENT'S SUICIDAL  
26 THOUGHTS;

27 2. HOW LONG THE STUDENT HAS BEEN HAVING  
28 SUICIDAL THOUGHTS; AND

29 3. THE STUDENT'S PLAN TO CARRY OUT THE SUICIDAL  
30 THOUGHTS.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2 1, 2015.