

SENATE BILL 296

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5lr2361
CF 5lr0545

By: **Senators Montgomery, Lee, Nathan–Pulliam, Pinsky, Ramirez, and Young**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Thirsty Kids Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each public school to make available free, unlimited, potable
4 drinking water for each student throughout the school day, to include a reusable
5 water bottle on the school supplies list for each student in kindergarten through
6 grade 12, and to provide certain cups for drinking water in certain locations;
7 requiring the State Department of Education to encourage each county board to
8 develop a plan to promote the consumption of drinking water, the use of reusable
9 water bottles, and weekly cleaning of reusable water bottles; and generally relating
10 to drinking water in public schools.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Education
13 Section 7–437
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 **7–437.**

20 **(A) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL:**

21 **(1) MAKE AVAILABLE FREE, UNLIMITED, POTABLE DRINKING WATER**
22 **FOR EACH STUDENT THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) INCLUDE A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE ON THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES**
2 **LIST FOR EACH STUDENT IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12; AND**

3 **(3) PROVIDE FLAT-BOTTOMED, BIODEGRADABLE CUPS FOR**
4 **DRINKING WATER IN EACH LOCATION WHERE MEALS ARE SERVED.**

5 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENCOURAGE EACH COUNTY BOARD TO**
6 **DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROMOTE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**

7 **(1) THE CONSUMPTION OF DRINKING WATER;**

8 **(2) THE USE OF REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES; AND**

9 **(3) WEEKLY CLEANING OF REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2015.