

# HOUSE BILL 1556

F1

7lr3669  
CF SB 90

---

By: **Delegate K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2017

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public and Nonpublic Schools – Classwork and Assessment Involving Live and**  
3 **Dead Animals – Student Right of Refusal**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a student in a public school or nonpublic school to refuse  
5 to participate in or observe, in whole or in part, classwork or an assessment that  
6 includes certain actions conducted on a certain animal; authorizing a student to  
7 exercise a certain right of refusal at a certain time; requiring a certain student to  
8 complete certain classwork or a certain assessment by an alternate educational  
9 method determined by a certain teacher for a certain purpose; requiring that a  
10 certain assignment meet certain requirements; prohibiting a teacher or a public  
11 school or a nonpublic school from penalizing or discriminating against a certain  
12 student under certain circumstances in a certain manner; requiring the State  
13 Department of Education to send a certain notice to each county board of education  
14 on or before a certain date each year; requiring a county board to distribute a certain  
15 notice to certain public schools at certain times; requiring the Department to adopt  
16 certain regulations; providing that a nonpublic school may establish a certain policy;  
17 defining certain terms; and generally relating to a student's right of refusal  
18 regarding classwork and assessment involving live and dead animals.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Education

21 Section 7–124

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Education**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-124.

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) (I) "ALTERNATE EDUCATIONAL METHOD" MEANS A METHOD  
5 OF PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION TO A STUDENT TO GAIN THE  
6 INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS REQUIRED IN A CLASS THAT IS A  
7 SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ORIGINAL METHOD OF EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION.

8 (II) "ALTERNATE EDUCATIONAL METHOD" INCLUDES A  
9 METHOD THAT USES ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TOOLS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL  
10 INSTRUCTION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ORIGINAL METHOD OF EDUCATIONAL  
11 INSTRUCTION:

12 1. VIDEOS AND FILMS;

13 2. MODELS;

14 3. BOOKS;

15 4. PHOTOGRAPHS;

16 5. COMPUTERS;

17 6. LIVE OBSERVATION, FIELD TRIPS, AND SITE VISITS;

18 AND

19 7. ANY OTHER TOOL DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY

20 THE TEACHER.

21 (3) "ANIMAL" MEANS ANY LIVING ORGANISM OTHER THAN A HUMAN  
22 BEING.

23 (4) "CLASSWORK" INCLUDES WORK ASSIGNED IN A REQUIRED OR  
24 ELECTIVE CLASS OFFERED TO STUDENTS BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC  
25 SCHOOL.

26 (B) (1) A STUDENT IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY  
27 REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN OR OBSERVE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, CLASSWORK OR AN  
28 ASSESSMENT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS CONDUCTED ON A LIVE OR  
29 DEAD ANIMAL OR THE SEVERED PART OF A DEAD ANIMAL:

- 1           **(I) DISSECTION;**  
2           **(II) VIVISECTION;**  
3           **(III) INCUBATION;**  
4           **(IV) INFLICTION OF HARM;**  
5           **(V) CAPTURE; OR**  
6           **(VI) DESTRUCTION.**

7           **(2) A STUDENT MAY EXERCISE A RIGHT OF REFUSAL ON THE DAY THE**  
8 **CLASSWORK OR ASSESSMENT IS SCHEDULED TO BE PERFORMED.**

9           **(3) (I) A STUDENT WHO EXERCISES A RIGHT OF REFUSAL UNDER**  
10 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE**  
11 **REQUIRED CLASSWORK OR ASSESSMENT BY AN ALTERNATE EDUCATIONAL METHOD**  
12 **DETERMINED BY THE TEACHER OF THE CLASS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY**  
13 **INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS OR TO ASSESS THE STUDENT'S**  
14 **INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS.**

15           **(II) AN ASSIGNMENT OR ASSESSMENT GIVEN BY A TEACHER**  
16 **USING AN ALTERNATE EDUCATIONAL METHOD UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**  
17 **PARAGRAPH SHALL BE COMPARABLE:**

18                   **1. IN TIME AND EFFORT TO COMPLETE BY THE STUDENT**  
19 **AS THE ORIGINAL CLASSWORK OR ASSESSMENT; AND**

20                   **2. IN GRADING METHODOLOGY BY THE TEACHER.**

21           **(C) A STUDENT WHO EXERCISES A RIGHT OF REFUSAL UNDER SUBSECTION**  
22 **(B) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE PENALIZED OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THE**  
23 **TEACHER OR PUBLIC SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FOR EXERCISING THIS RIGHT**  
24 **BY:**

25                   **(1) ASSIGNING A LOWER GRADE SOLELY BECAUSE THE STUDENT**  
26 **EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF REFUSAL; OR**

27                   **(2) REMOVING A STUDENT FROM CLASS UNLESS THE REMOVAL IS**  
28 **REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN THE STUDENT'S RIGHT OF REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN OR**  
29 **OBSERVE THE CLASSWORK OR ASSESSMENT.**

1           **(D) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT**  
2 **SHALL SEND A NOTICE TO EACH COUNTY BOARD OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS**  
3 **SECTION.**

4           **(2) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL:**

5                   **(I) DISTRIBUTE TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL UNDER ITS**  
6 **JURISDICTION A COPY OF THE NOTICE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**  
7 **AND**

8                   **(II) REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE**  
9 **STUDENTS AND PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL A COPY OF THE**  
10 **NOTICE:**

11                           **1. AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
12 **SEMESTER; AND**

13                           **2. AT LEAST 3 WEEKS BEFORE THE DAY ANY CLASS IS**  
14 **SCHEDULED TO PERFORM CLASSWORK TO WHICH A STUDENT MAY EXERCISE A**  
15 **RIGHT OF REFUSAL UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

16           **(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT**  
17 **THIS SECTION AS IT APPLIES TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

18           **(2) A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY ESTABLISH A POLICY TO IMPLEMENT**  
19 **THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

20           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2017.