

Chapter 335

(House Bill 920)

AN ACT concerning

Primary and Secondary Education – Certificated School Personnel – Training Requirement

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to require, beginning on or before a certain date, certain certificated school personnel to complete training on or before a certain date each year in, by a method determined by each county board of education, certain knowledge and skills required to understand and respond to ~~the social, emotional, and personal development of students~~ youth suicide risk and identify certain resources to help students in crisis; requiring certain training to be provided to certain certificated school personnel during in-service training or to be a professional development requirement; requiring the State Board to adopt certain regulations; providing for the construction of certain provisions of this Act; prohibiting a person from bringing a certain action against a county board except under certain circumstances; requiring certain training for certain certificate holders applying for renewal of a certificate as a school counselor to meet a certain standard or exceed the standard of certain training required of other school personnel; and generally relating to a training requirement for certificated school personnel.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 6–122

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 6–704.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Education**6–122.**

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 6–704.1 OF THIS TITLE AND BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE STATE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE ALL CERTIFICATED SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS ON A REGULAR

BASIS TO COMPLETE TRAINING ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BY A METHOD DETERMINED BY EACH COUNTY BOARD, IN THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO:

(1) UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO YOUTH SUICIDE RISK; AND

(2) IDENTIFY PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP STUDENTS IN CRISIS ~~UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS, INCLUDING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS RELATING TO:~~

~~**(1) THE RECOGNITION OF INDICATORS OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS, INCLUDING DEPRESSION, TRAUMA, VIOLENCE, YOUTH SUICIDE, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE; AND**~~

~~**(2) THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP STUDENTS IN CRISIS.**~~

(B) THE TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE:

(1) PROVIDED TO CERTIFICATED SCHOOL PERSONNEL DURING AN IN-SERVICE PROGRAM; OR

(2) A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT THAT MAY BE MET DURING TIME DESIGNATED FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

(D) (1) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO IMPOSE A DUTY OF CARE ON CERTIFICATED SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO COMPLETE TRAINING UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) UNLESS THE ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF A CERTIFICATED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE WHO COMPLETED TRAINING UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ARE WILLFUL, WANTON, OR GROSSLY NEGLIGENT, A PERSON MAY NOT BRING AN ACTION AGAINST THE COUNTY BOARD FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR WRONGFUL DEATH CAUSED BY ANY ACT OR OMISSION RESULTING FROM:

(I) ANY TRAINING OR LACK OF TRAINING OF CERTIFICATED SCHOOL PERSONNEL UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; OR

(II) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

6-704.1.

(a) On or before July 1, 2016, the Board shall require a certificate holder applying for renewal of a certificate as a school counselor to have obtained **TRAINING IN**, by a method determined by the Board, the knowledge and skills required to understand and respond to the social, emotional, and personal development of students, including knowledge and skills relating to:

- (1) The recognition of indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse; and
- (2) The identification of professional resources to help students in crisis.

(B) THE TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE DUTIES OF A SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND MAY EXCEED THE TRAINING REQUIRED OF OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL UNDER § 6-122 OF THIS TITLE.

[(b)] (C) The Board shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

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

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2017.